

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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INSIDE



Naming Contest

With the construction of the new multi-million Promenade Pedestrian Mall on Garapan nearing completion, a golden opportunity for the community to take part in the process presents itself.

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Anniversary

Beginning August 1, one-stop-shop wholesaler Price Costco will phase out its wholesale club, which entails a membership card system that has been implemented for about a decade now.

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Cheated?

Opposition leaders ignored President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's call for unity Wednesday, insisting she cheated in last month's elections and vowing more anti-government protests.

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Rains delay recovery efforts

Crops destroyed, number of evacuees increasing

By AGNES E. DONATO and JOHN RAVELO
REPORTERS

Despite tracking far north of the Marianas, monsoon rains continued to batter Saipan yesterday, causing widespread flooding on different parts of the island and resulting in heavy runoff that contaminated the beaches. The number of evacuees seeking temporary shelter at the Marianas High School continues to grow.

Initial assessment showed that among the worst hit by the typhoon's strong winds and record-breaking rainfall was the agricultural sector, destroying 100 percent of Saipan's vegetable crops and causing substantial losses to farmers—estimated to reach close to \$1 million.

The Commonwealth Development Authority said yesterday it would consider suspending loan payments in the agricultural sector to accommodate the farmers who are faced with this disaster.

The heavy downpour yesterday afternoon stalled government efforts to restore power and clear the island of debris.

Department of Public Works Secretary Juan S. Reyes said DPW had to call off its cleanup efforts on Beach Road and other parts of the island because of the heavy rains.

Power restoration work was also halted for safety reasons, said Commonwealth Utilities Corp. chair Herman P. Sablan.

According to Reyes, the department initially targeted to finish disposing of knocked down trees and clearing up debris within two days, but the heavy rains yesterday made the task even more difficult.

"So we just diverted our efforts instead to opening up the drainage along the shoreline, which was blocked up by sand during the typhoon," Reyes said.

He added that DPW had to rent backhoe trucks from private companies to augment the department's equipment.

Reyes also expressed appreciation

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SHAN SEMAN/JOHN RAVELO

Thousands of gallons of runoff water finds its way to the sea through this drainage yesterday after heavy rain showered the island and caused major flooding in many areas. Inset, the ground of the Mobil Gas Station on Chalan Kiya is covered with water after rain flooded the area.

DPH advises vs leptospirosis, pest infestation

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health yesterday asked the public to take preventive actions against the possible incidence of leptospirosis and other illnesses that may come as a result of infestation of rodents, mosquitoes, and other pests brought by the continuous downpour following the onslaught of Typhoon Tingting.



or businesses to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

In particular, the department asked the public to collect all tin cans and plastic bottles and dispose them safely,

DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider said people must ensure good sanitation and regular maintenance in homes

backfill stagnant pools using dirt or sand, and avoid collection of rainwater in any man-made items, like cans, containers, boxes, etc.

While there has been no reported cases of leptospirosis so far, the department warned of its possible occurrence due to the current weather condition.

Leptospirosis is usually found in the urine of rodents, and can be extremely harmful to humans and animals.

See DPH on Page 12

CNMI's overtime costs skyrocketing

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The CNMI government is incurring substantial overtime costs due to the accumulated overtime work rendered by personnel and officers from various agencies since the start of the typhoon and through the ongoing recovery and restoration activities.

Governor's press secretary Peter Callaghan said the Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Public Health, and Department of Public Works are topping

the list of agencies accruing additional expenses since Saturday.

"Other agencies also are accruing overtime, some of them even before the time that Typhoon Tingting hit Saipan Sunday. This is going to be in millions, not only the overtime but also the damage sustained by different agencies and departments during the onslaught of the storm," Callaghan said.

He, however, declined to specify any figures.

The press information officer said that after the assessment, the CNMI government hopes to get assistance from

the Federal Emergency Management Agency in paying out all repair and replacement costs, including salary and overtime pays.

"We hope to get the FEMA assistance not only in overtime but also the damage we sustained that are running in millions," he said.

Callaghan said the assessment would not be finished today as FEMA officials have also decided to inspect Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands. FEMA was initially scheduled to complete the Preliminary Damage Assessment in two days.

See CNMI on Page 12

Cape Air kicks off Guam-Rota flights

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority expects better services and lower airfare to follow after yesterday's kickoff of Cape Air flights between Guam and Rota.

The introduction of Continental Connection, which is a partnership between Continental Airlines and

See CAPE on Page 12

Local

July is disability awareness month

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

In hopes of raising awareness on recognizing equal rights among all, including those with disabilities, Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday declared July as American with Disabilities Act Awareness Month.

Supporters gathered at the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Su-supe to witness the proclamation signing.

“The signing declaring the ADA month will definitely increase awareness and reach

out and touch people’s lives, especially the businesses and the public sector, making sure the ADA is followed as far as accessibility standards and policy [are concerned],” said Council on Developmental Disabilities executive director Thomas J. Camacho. “There will be a lot of activities that will bring a lot of awareness on policy, information technology, and accessibility guidelines, and I am pretty sure this is going to impact a lot of people.”

More than 9,000 citizens, or 13 percent, of the CNMI population are living with dis-

abilities. In 1990, there were 49 million Americans with disabilities. The number has grown over the past 14 years, with 54 million living with disabilities.

“This month same time 14 years ago, on July 26, former President George W. Bush Sr. signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In 1990, there were 49 million Americans with disabilities; today there are 54 million. The CNMI alone has over 9,000 individuals with some sort of disabilities,” Camacho.

Camacho disclosed that, according to the Northern Mari-



SHAN SEMAN
Gov. Juan N. Babauta signs the document declaring July as American with Disabilities Act Awareness Month, while Council on Developmental Disabilities executive director Thomas J. Camacho looks on.

anas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., 387 cases of ADA complaints and litigations had been reported in 2003.

“Too often, people with disabilities are locked out, left out or overlooked. While the Americans with Disabilities Act addresses fundamental civil rights for people with disabilities, the basics of everyday life are still out of reach for too many Americans with disabilities: getting a job, accessing health care, finding housing, using transportation, getting an education, and voting independently,” he said.

As part of celebrating ADA Awareness Month, the TriAgency Network—CDD, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., and the University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities—will host an ADA Symposium, slated to kick off on July 12. The theme for the event is “Independence Day for People with Disabilities.”

Camacho said the symposium would feature sessions that will be spread on 11 days between

July 12 and 28. Sessions are scheduled to take place on July 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, and 28 at the World Resort.

The sessions are provided by nationally and locally recognized experts on disability-related issues including presenters and speakers involved in the ADA—U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Access Board, Pacific Disability and Business ADA & IT Technical Assistance Center, The Arc, and the CDD ADA Technical Assistance Support.

Camacho said the symposium aims to encourage the employment of people with disabilities, ensuring that people with disabilities get the health care they need, creating affordable housing options and accessible transportation services to allow people with disabilities to live in and be more active in their communities, and guaranteeing access to high quality educational services, and to make all polling places accessible so people with disabilities can vote.

Registration is free. To register, call 664-7000 or email to ada@cnmiddcouncil.org.

nikko

diabetes
+green

cb cruz

conwood

pricecostco
+red/blue

Rota dock closed until further notice

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

With repair work from the damage caused by typhoon Pongsona just about to get done, the Rota seaport was damaged anew, this time by Typhoon Tingting. This forced the Commonwealth Ports Authority to close it once more to vessels.

CPA executive director Carlos Salas, who checked the impact of typhoon Tingting on the island's ports facilities, said yesterday that the Rota seaport would remain closed until CPA ascertains that the dock structure and channel are safe for navigation.

"The Rota airport is okay, but we have some concern about the structural integrity of the dock. Also, the water is still very rough over there, so vessels can't come in yet," he said in an interview.

Salas expressed concern that there may be a deep cavity in the dock structure, making it dangerous for berthing vessels.

Rota ports manager Benjamin M. Manglona said that repair work on the dock was just nearing completion when typhoon Tingting hit the Marianas earlier this week.

The renovation project came after supertyphoon Pongsona devastated Rota and Guam in Dec. 2002.

Salas explained that it is very difficult to maintain the Rota harbor, as it is very close to the open ocean.

"The harbor is only about 300 to 400 feet away from the open ocean. So whenever there's a storm, there's direct wave action on the dock," he said.

While he declined to give an estimated cost of the damage caused by Tingting to the Rota seaport, Salas maintained that the dock is now among CPA's top priorities for repair.

"What we'll do is to get the dock fixed, at least temporarily, then we'll move on to major repair work," Salas said.

As soon as the waters get calmer, CPA would send divers to check the channel and the turning basin for any debris or obstruction, he added.

The ports authority also plans to enlist the help of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers in rehabilitating the dock.

Further, CPA officials will meet with shipping and stevedore companies to discuss options for loading and unloading of cargo while renovation is underway.

Meanwhile, Salas said the Tinian seaport is now open. The Saipan Express ferry, which operates between Saipan and Tinian, has also resumed service.

He added that the sunken vessel at Saipan seaport does not pose any problem to vessels coming into the harbor.

"It's out of the way. The only thing that the U.S. Coast Guard and CPA are trying to do right now is to make sure that it causes no pollution and that its owner lifts it up and gets rid of it as soon as possible," Salas said.

gorman & gavras

avon

baby news

gardenia
+red

seastar

las vegas
+yellow

US Embassy, Tokyo, Dec. 7, 1941

There are thousands of stories related to personal experiences in World War II and while many are tragic in the extreme, others involve circumstances and events that are interesting from the point of view of simply being of human interest.

After the war many who had been in the United States military continued their government service and joined the State Department and other agencies of the United States Government. I met many of these veterans while serving as a foreign service officer in various American Embassies. These were men who were nearing retirement and their positions were being filled by younger employees such as myself.

One such person I shall always remember while serving with the State Department told me of an episode which occurred at the American Embassy in Tokyo in the early days of the war.

He recalled that the dependents of the Embassy staff were ordered by the State Department to leave Japan in April of that year as the political situation between the United States and Japan was deteriorating rapidly.

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war on December 8th while still in Tokyo he was visited by a Japanese officer who looked around the Embassy compound and saw several Japanese civil-

By **WILLIAM H. STEWART**
Military Historical Cartographer



ians who were employed as gardeners, cooks and maids. The Japanese officer ordered them to leave stating, "our countries are now at war and such luxuries will not be permitted among American Embassy employees", and he ordered the Japanese domestic employees to leave the Embassy compound and not to return. He then told the Americans that they could not leave the compound and that an exchange of diplomats



was being arranged. This trade later took place in West Africa where the Japanese diplomats who had been stationed in Washington (including Japanese negotiators Ambassador Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura and Saburo Kurusu) were exchanged for the American Embassy staff that had been assigned to Japan. This particular Japanese officer had a habit of dropping by the Embassy compound as he liked to practice speaking English. One day he brought an English language newspaper with the headline, "Guam Falls", and remarked that Singapore,

Hong Kong and Hawaii would be next and that Japanese forces would land troops on the United States' west coast. My friend, Bill, recalled his reply, "Colonel you will never take Singapore as the city is protected by a large British garrison as well as huge naval coastal batteries, it will never fall." With that exchange the Japanese officer abruptly left. Several days later he returned and again held up an English language newspaper in which the headline read, "Singapore Falls." "What do you think of that?" asked the officer. Being extremely depressed at the news, Bill replied, "So Singapore has fallen - well Colonel maybe you will take Hawaii - and maybe you will land troops on the west coast of the United States - but I'll tell you here and now - I'll go down with my country." With that the Japanese officer stood up, slapped Bill on the back and said, "spoken like a man" and walked out the door. Several hours later the Japanese house boys and maids returned to work in the compound. Months later, while standing on the roof of his quarters in Tokyo, Bill heard aircraft flying overhead and looked up and thought he saw the red wing insignia of the Japanese Air Force, but all of a sudden bombs started to fall on the city -- it was April 18, 1942, and it was Jimmy Dolittle and his "Tokyo Raiders" flying over the city in their B-25 Mitchell Bombers from the aircraft carrier Hornet. The red "meatball" Bill thought he saw was actually the red center of the old Army Air Force wing insignia which was later changed to a plain white star.

There are many interesting stories that relate to the war, it was later learned that very little damage was done by the bombing attack. Fearing that the Army's top secret Norden Bomb Sight would fall into the hands of the Japanese, the attack was carried out with a 20 cent, sheet metal device that resembled a protractor with a sighting arm. I well remember hearing the news of the attack on the radio, in fact it was the first good news we had received since Pearl Harbor and it certainly boosted the morale of the American people in those dark days of 1942.



eye clinic



Opinion

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Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

Same tired, old speeches

For nearly three decades now, we've heard tired speeches about (addressing) water shortages here. We're far off the mark from resolution because we're stuck in the mud of address.

The speeches are as empty as the water pipes emplaced in Garapan, San Jose, Susupe, As Lito, As Perdido, San Vicente and Chalan Kanoa Villages.

Then came a new form of government solution: establishment of a water task force to address water problems island-wide. CUC pitched in by planning to retain a consultant to study more water problems we already know. It's a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing.

The basic premise is: islands throughout the Pacific have small water lenses or aquifers. Island communities suffer from the lack of water in prolonged drought season. It means far less water in aquifers to meet the growing demands of the community. But we've also employed Chamorro Logic by drilling more water wells around the same source only to pump brackish water during the dry season.

The obvious dilemma is the continuing expansion of this community. It needs more water to feed new residential developments, islandwide. The seeming answer is to proceed with desalination of salt water. Otherwise, we may have to revert to building more outside toilets to mitigate the lack of water.

Gentlemen, please spare us the same tired old intramural speeches that are as empty as the pipes in the villages, speeches that have been regurgitated for nearly 30 years.

John S. DelRosario Jr.
Koblerville

A response to Senator Reyes

Let me respond to Sen. Pete P. Reyes in the same venue in which he made his remarks (in the June 8 issue of this paper). Senator Reyes was unhappy that I did not consult with him prior to my voicing an opinion in my column, On My Mind (found on the web and in this paper's Sunday edition), about his reaction to the governor's veto of three of Senator Reyes' bills. The senator claimed that the vetoes were a personal reaction by the governor, and I disagreed.

Senator, I do not own a TV set. I get my information mainly from reading the two local papers. I often do call parties for information related to subjects I write about, and often obtain copies of, and read, related documents as well.

I did not do so in this case because, to the best of my recollection, in all the coverage given your unhappiness with the governor's vetoes, not once was any substantive argument included about the issues regarding Senate Bill 14-11, Senate Draft 1, which concerned DNA testing in paternity suits. There was no clue that the governor's reasoning was in error, and that your objections did, indeed, have factual grounds.

I know you are articulate, and do not hesitate to voice your opinion. Since I found no explanation of your position in the papers I made the assumption that, therefore, there were no real grounds for the position you were taking on this bill.

The other two bills that were vetoed—one, proposing to abolish celebration of President's Day so as to observe Martin Luther King day, and the other proposing to restrict Marianas Visitors Authority's hiring of nonresident workers—are both more a matter of opinion than a matter of fact, and there did not seem a need for further clarification.

I realize that there is a risk in depending on what the newspapers report and what they don't, on what approach they take. But I simply don't have the resources to verify every piece of newspaper-provided data that I use.

On the bright side, at least now, with your detailed explanation of why SB 14-11 should not have been vetoed, we may all understand what the real issue is. Indeed, perhaps it will encourage legislators to override the veto of this bill. It's a pity the explanation wasn't provided sooner.

Senator, I meant no disrespect. Our relationship has been a respectful one, and I hope it continues that way.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Why Reagan is a legend

If the Commonwealth had to pick a hero, Ronald Reagan would be a good choice. After all, it was President Reagan who conferred U.S. citizenship on the island folks, an act that has been followed by a gravy train of sweet moolah that puts the financial sucrose in the term Uncle Sugar.

Of course, if you go anywhere near the English-language media, they have soured the sweetness of Reagan's dignified stature by grinding in into mush with the millstones of Posthumous Saturation Coverage. Among all the romp in the pomp, though, I've gotten a lot of email questions from foreign readers, many of them workers or managers on Saipan, who are trying to gauge the American psyche on this matter. Namely, this: "What's the deal with Ronald Reagan? Why was he so popular?"

Well, that's a fair question. Let me see if I can cook up a fair answer.

You can't separate a man from his times, and Reagan secured the presidency in really bleak times for the United States. Not bleak as in crisis of Great Depression or WWII proportions, but bleak as in a vague and all encompassing despair, like a wet blanket had settled over the nation and was slowly smothering everyone's hopes. President Jimmy Carter just wasn't hitting the right buttons there in the Oval Office.

Inflation was roaring out of control, and I remember well those double-digit interest rates and the obscene, wealth-depleting costs of my parents' mortgage and car payments as they sweat the bills each month.

A gas crisis hit, and was countered with total incompetence.

And on the geopolitical stage, a handful of rag-tag Iranian yahoos holding U.S. hostages managed to geld Uncle Sam, while Carter looked like a deer frozen in headlights.

No disrespect intended to Mr. Carter, since he is a man of great intelligence and character. He just had lousy luck in Washington. And he had no knack for economics.

Still, lousy luck is, well, lousy, and economics is mighty unforgiving of messing up, and any way you looked at it back then, U.S.

Examining the local mom-and-pop phenomenon

Q •Hafa Adai! I look forward to reading your column everyday and one thing for sure, you are truly impartial and that I surely appreciate. I have a few concerns that I would like to share with you and hopefully will be able to see you address one or two in your column.

A good number of mom-and-pop stores are operating businesses in small spaces with very limited merchandise and obviously run and managed daily by family members or attendants who could barely communicate in English. It just makes me wonder; how and in what ways do such businesses contribute to the CNMI economy. Are they simply operating such businesses as a front just so they can continue residing in the CNMI? I am sure that their income verse their living expenses is a big negative. Or are they reporting their business gross income?

Certainly, I am pleased to hear of your great interest—like many others—in my Q & A column. My purpose for this column is to enhance public awareness on issues of common interest in the community. It's my goal is to build a strong enough pressure from a well-informed public to compel the policymakers to develop and follow a socio-economic development plan that charts a successful development path for the people of the CNMI.

Let me begin my answer to your question by highlighting the socio-economic significance of small businesses, the so-called "mom-and-pop enterprises." This type of small business is primarily operated by the owner and his/her family members. Small businesses employ almost 60 percent of America's workers, contribute 50 percent of sales and account for half of private sector output. According to published government data, small and family owned businesses represented 98 percent of all U.S. employers, generated the third-largest economy in the world and contributed 50 percent of the gross domestic product in year 2000. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, small firms made up nearly 90 percent of all exporters and produced one-fifth of the known export value in 2001. For that matter no national political leader can afford to ignore policies aimed at addressing the issues concerning mom-and-pop enterprises. Thus, invariably every federal administration has declared policies to improve the economic security of small businesses, provide them help to meet challenges by improving access to capital, ease the tax burden, expand the opportunity of access to new markets, make technology and information work for small businesses and help them in implementing policies that value families. However, development of specific policies addressing issues of small businesses by our lo-

By **ED STEPHENS**

Ed Stephens, Jr. is an economist and columnist for the Saipan Tribune. "Ed4Saipan@yahoo.com"



policy—economic, military, whatever—was an utter disaster. Want to understand Reagan's popularity? You have to understand this first. It's a context thing.

And then Ronald Reagan appeared and he turned things around. The smothering blanket was lifted. The sun came out. Things got better. That's what happened. The details don't matter.

Meanwhile, consider that TV is the center of life in the USA, where the average American now watches 5.3 hours per day (yes, per DAY) of television. Reagan wasn't the first TV president, but he was the best. He was telegenic. He was poised. He had an obvious sense of humor. He was dignified, but not stuffy, not cocky, not glib, not pompous. He seemed bigger than the title of President, not the other way around.

He seemed bigger than life, really, which is why so many people were so shaken a few days ago when they found that he wasn't.

Personally, there were some Reagan policies that I did not mesh with. Not everyone in his administration was on my warm-and-fuzzy list. But, so what? He was still a great among greats. In fact, in contemplating the man's legacy, perhaps the best reflection on him is who his shrill and vocal enemies are. If screeching neurotics, child molesters, and welfare queens go apoplectic at the mention of his name...well....that puts points in Reagan's favor right there.

Ronald Reagan is an American legend, who was legendarily good to the people of the Commonwealth, too.

By **MOHAMMAD ASHRAF, PH.D.**

Ashraf is an International Resource Economist. He is solely responsible for the views expressed in this column and doesn't represent the views of Saipan Tribune. His email address is ashmdr@hotmail.com



cal government may yet be in its infancy.

Further, I will mention some specific steps taken under the Clinton administration where the Small Business Administration doubled its loan volume to small businesses in three years. With no drop in loans to other business owners, the number of guaranteed loans to women-owned businesses was quadrupled. The 1993 Economic Plan made 90 percent of small businesses eligible for tax relief, helping them to keep money needed for growth. Also, targeted tax preference for capital gains, reduced record keeping requirements, raised the small business expense limit for equipment by 75 percent and extended the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit, reduced the burden of regulatory enforcement, overhauled export controls, and made it easier for small firms to do business with the federal government during the same time.

Similar policies such as tax write-offs for small businesses recently enacted by the Minimum Wage Increase Act, regulatory relief and reduction in paperwork requirements, easier access to needed capital, provision of health care insurance and retirement savings plans for employers and employees are continuing under the current administration of President Bush.

Why are mom-and-pop or family businesses more appreciated by the community, compared with the bigger chain store businesses? The reasons include the effectiveness of family teams, positive customer perceptions of family ownership, willingness of family members to sacrifice for their enterprise, trust among family members, commitment to integrity and reputation, family support and more. Family businesses enable people to work hard for something more important than either opportunity or ego and that's family reputation.

Among the economic benefits of these businesses, studies show that the externally owned firms tend to purchase products from distant suppliers and channel profits to distant owners in other regions, thus generating smaller local multiplier effects than homegrown businesses. The addition of one new small firm results in an overall

See **EXAMINING** on Page 8

Royal Court coronation venue moved

Rain spoils planned reopening of Liberation Festival

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

Due to yesterday's heavy showers, the Royal Court Coronation will no longer take place at the Liberation Festival grounds across Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

According to Liberation Executive Committee chair Victorino Cepeda, the event will take place at the Hafa Adai Hotel after rain hampered efforts to restore electrical power to the site.

"The [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] was here yesterday to put the power, but that was not possible because of all the rain," he said. "So the coronation will be held with the Queen's Ball at Hafa Adai Hotel."

The coronation will reveal who among the eight candidates is this

year's Liberation Queen. Vying for the title are Lady Leiana K. Ogumoro, who represents the Refaluwasch Foundation and community; Lady Nadia B. Manglona, who represents the island of Rota and the Rota High School JROTC program; Lady Myla Capilitan, who represents Filipino community; Lady Sarah T. Igisaia, who represents the Chuukese community; Lady Sweeda N. Glad, who represents the Indian community; Lady Heather O. Woodruff, who represents the Palauan community; Lady Monarie R. Cabrera, who represents the Kagman High School JROTC; and Lady Sheyvonne A. Maratita, who represents the Chamorro community.

The 2004 queen receives \$1,000 in scholarship, while the first and second

runners-up receive \$700 and \$500. Each candidate will also receive a crown, a scepter, a royal robe, and a necklace or bracelet, and two gowns.

Activities at the festival grounds did not resume last night; however, Cepeda remains hopeful that it may resume tonight.

"We can start [tonight], but again, that depends on the weather and if it will allow the CUC to restore the power," he said. "Bringing power back is the only thing left to do, and once that happens, we will open up."

Cepeda said electrical power is also needed for the rides featured at the festival.

Full operation is also an issue facing the committee as several booths have yet to be repaired. Cepeda, however, said a good number of booths are still

in good shape and will be in business when the festival resumes.

Cepeda added that staff from the Office of the Saipan Mayor have been braving the wet weather, working in hopes of completing repair work as early as possible.

Several people have already begun constructing the review stand that will be occupied by dignitaries during the Liberation parade, which Cepeda said would go on as scheduled this Sunday at 9am. The parade course begins at the National Office Supply and concludes at the Kristo Rai Church.

The Liberation Fest grounds sustained damage from Typhoon Tingting on Monday. Over three units containing 12 booths were heavily damaged. The Command Post was also destroyed.

RAINS

From Page 1

for the help given by other agencies, which provided additional manpower and equipment to Public Works.

"We could not accomplish all this work even in one week if we didn't get help from other agencies," Reyes said.

DPW personnel will be working on Saturday to finish the cleanup, he added.

CUC chairman Sablan, for his part, said power is now restored to about 90 percent of the island. Currently, only certain areas in Susupe and Oleai are still not connected to the main power system.

"Hopefully, we can finish this by the end of this week, if it stops raining. Nobody can work if it continues to rain hard because it's very dangerous to work with electrical power under that kind of condition," Sablan said.

Saipan crops destroyed

All of Saipan's vegetable crops were totally destroyed, according to Isidoro Cabrera, agricultural consultant to the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Education and Extension Service.

Cabrera said the crops include tomato, eggplant, bitter melon, cabbage, green onion and okra.

He said the typhoon damaged up to 60 percent of Saipan's root crops, including taro and sweet potato. The typhoon also destroyed about 90 percent of the island's bananas.

Cabrera said the typhoon impacted not only Saipan's main farming district—Kagman—but also other areas such as Tapochau, Capitol Hill, As Teo, Papago, San Vicente and As Gonno. He said agricultural damage, excluding livestock losses, could reach up to \$800,000 on Saipan alone.

CDA executive director Mary Lou S.

Ada said the agency is looking at possibly implementing a moratorium on payments from agricultural and marine loan recipients.

Ada said the move would be in line with assisting the agricultural sector, one of the most impacted by the typhoon.

The CDA board would tackle the matter when it convenes possibly next week, according to Ada.

Representatives from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the CREES have begun surveying plots around the island, but Cabrera said the survey had to be temporarily halted yesterday afternoon due to heavy rainfall, which measured approximately six inches. He said rainfall reached that level in just over six hours.

At the height of the typhoon Monday, Cabrera said estimated amount of rainfall reached 13 inches.

Rainy days to come

The Emergency Management Office said yesterday that Saipan would experience scattered rainshowers even today.

"Convergent southwest wind flow into typhoon Tingting located far north of the Marianas will maintain scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms through Friday. West swells are slowly subsiding across the region. However, hazardous surf will continue across the islands through early Saturday," the EMO said.

Based on the forecast by the National Weather Service, the islands would continue to experience isolated showers until Thursday next week.

Intermittent heavy downpour that began noontime yesterday flooded several portions of Saipan, despite a sunny weather in the morning.

One of these areas was the vicinity of the Mobil gas station in Chalan Kiya, the gas pumps of which were soaked in

flood. The flood, which measured up to a foot, caused inconvenience to motorists.

The rain also flooded portions of Beach Road, including San Jose and Garapan. A cruise along Beach Road showed the usually clear, blue waters of Saipan's beaches turned muddy. Heavy stormwater runoff evidently contaminated the beach waters, which turned the waters brownish in color.

The EMO also advised beach goers, fishermen and tour operators of high surf and strong rip currents. Three Chinese women died Sunday after drowning at the beach across the Aquarius Beach Tower in Chalan Kanoa.

Evacuees increasing

The number of evacuees seeking shelter at the Marianas High School has been increasing, according to acting principal Joseph Borja.

Borja said there were 55 evacuees from different villages staying at MHS' classrooms, but the number was expected to reach 62 by nighttime.

"Most of these have houses that were destroyed and are not liveable," Borja said. He said the evacuees came from Tanapag, Koblerville, Kagman, Chalan Kanoa and Chinatown.

Sixty-eight-year-old Achene Romino, a resident of Chalan Kanoa, said flood seeped into her house, forcing her and her elder sister to evacuate.

Pertina Ruben, a 28-year-old mother of four, said she and her kids had to leave their Tanapag residence due to severe damage.

"My window got blown away. My small roof is leaking. The house is wet everywhere. All my things in the house are wet," Ruben said.

She and her kids—aged 5, 3 and 2 years and 8 months old—have had no problem with food at the shelter where it is supplied. "We need

clothes and blanket," she added.

The EMO reported that some 47 houses sustained major damage while three others were destroyed on Saipan. The EMO said some 152 houses incurred minor damage.

The EMO also said the typhoon left two houses destroyed and 10 others with major damage on Tinian, while no similar occurrence has been reported so far from Rota.

The EMO advised those seeking shelter to register and look for Borja at the MHS' administration office. Those who need transportation assistance may call 664-3800, 3801 and 3802.

DPH

From Page 1

To avoid such incidents, the department asked the public:

- to locate and clean up areas where rats may breed;
- to not leave food scraps out;
- to cover trash and use metal trash cans that are rat proof;
- to fix holes where rats can enter the house;
- to boil catchment water for at least five minutes before use; to set rat traps;
- to dispose of dead rats properly by burning or deep burial; to wear gloves and decontaminate traps with bleach; and
- to keep children from playing in collecting rain water and muddied areas.

"Typhoon Tingting continues to inundate the CNMI with rain. Because of these extreme weather conditions, the department would like to remind the public of necessary safety measures," said the DPH.

The department advised the public to call the Bureau of Environmental Health at 664-4870/4873 or the DPH public information office at 236-8207 for more details.

Callaghan explained that based on the category of assessment, FEMA can extend help to individuals and businesses affected by the typhoon.

Callaghan said that, if preliminary assessment determines that the CNMI can be accorded federal assistance, it is possible that expenses incurred would be split by the CNMI and the U.S. governments. "It is possible that it could be waived if the governor would request for it," he added.

CAPE

From Page 1

Cape Air, brought to three the number of options available for Guam and Rota commuters.

The two other air carriers servicing the route are Freedom Air and Pacific Island Aviation.

"Services will improve and pricing is going to be more attractive. That's what happens when you have competition," CPA executive director Carlos Salas said.

Pacific Islands Aviation currently charges \$153.36 for a roundtrip ticket between Guam and Rota, while Freedom Air charges \$140.

A similar ticket could cost as low as \$122.86 at Cape Air, if the reservation is made at least three days in advance.

Continental Connection offers non-stop, three times daily flights between Guam and Rota.

The new flights will leave Guam at 8:15am, 1:30pm, and 6pm. They will depart Rota at 10am, 2:50pm, and 7:10pm. Flight time is approximately 30 minutes.

"As a Continental Connection partner, Cape Air will operate the new service with 9-passenger Cessna 402 aircraft during the month of July. The airline intends to expand its service within the CNMI using larger ATR aircraft, as soon as completing necessary regulatory requirements," said Walter Dias, Continental Micronesia vice president for sales and marketing.

Dias also said that Continental has also teamed up with the Rota Resort & Country Club for its Holidays package that includes round-trip airfare from Guam to Rota, two nights at the Rota Resort, and airport-hotel transfers for as low as \$197 per person based on triple occupancy. The promo, which includes a special golf package, including a day of unlimited golf at Rota Resort, is also available.

Also, Continental stressed that OnePass members may earn double miles on Continental Connection flights operated by Cape Air when flying between Guam and Rota.

Interested individuals are urged to register online at www.continental.com to take advantage of this offer, which is valid between July 1, 2004 and August 31, 2004.

Continental Airlines is the world's sixth-largest airline with more than 2,800 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia. Continental serves 149 domestic and 117 international destinations—more than any other airline in the world—and nearly 200 additional points are served via code share partner airlines.

Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport. A wholly designed subsidiary of Continental Airlines, Continental Micronesia offers more than 290 departures each week between 22 cities throughout the Pacific Rim, the Micronesian Islands and Hawaii with a fleet of 13 next-generation Boeing 737 narrow-body and 767 wide-body aircraft.

CNMI

From Page 1

The CNMI government is coordinating joint assessment work with FEMA to determine the types of disaster assistance the CNMI could avail of, as well as estimate the amount of damage caused by the typhoon.

Based on FEMA's own initial assessment, massive repair work is needed by various government agencies severely hit during the three-day nonstop rain.

Five wards at the Commonwealth Health Center are now inoperable after the typhoon damaged 10 of the hospital's air conditioning units. DPH's medical supply medical building in Lower Base was also flooded and needs immediate repairs. Also, the report said critical medical supplies were immediately transported to DPH for safekeeping.

At the CUC side, at least 50 poles went down and several transmitters were damaged while DPW reported

extensive road damage that needs immediate repair.

Callaghan said FEMA officials headed by Hawaii Region 9 Pacific Area officer Sean Dowling and FEMA-Guam officers Ray Jualan and Edward Palacios have met with the EMO and members of the CNMI Response Action Committee to discuss preliminary reports on Tingting's onslaught.

The damage assessment is needed to determine if the CNMI can qualify for federal assistance.

DEQ raises red flag on Rota beach site

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on a beach site on Rota after samples collected from the location was found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria.

The agency said that samples it collected from District #2 Storm Drainage, Guata Beach showed high concentrations of enterococci bacteria that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

"Therefore, in order to adequately address public health concerns, DEQ has

given the location a red flag and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of the [site] for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified," said the agency in a statement.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 12 locations on Rota Island every week.

The agency has also analyzed water samples collected from Tinian's recreational beaches and storm water drainages and none of the samples collected contained excessive concentration of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The U. S. Army recently welcomed three young people from the CNMI into its ranks. From left to right, Derek M. Castro of DanDan, Abigail Evangelista of Tinian and Vincent A. Duenas of Koblerville.

3 NMI residents join US Army

Three residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands recently joined the U. S. Army, according to Sergeant First Class Christopher Cooper, commander of the U. S. Army recruiting Station on Guam.

Vincent A. Duenas of Koblerville, son of Joan Duenas, enlisted with the Military Occupational Skill of 19K- M1 Abrams Armor Crewman. He will be going to Fort Knox, Kentucky for his Initial Active Duty Training.

Derek M. Castro of DanDan, son of Daniel and Dorothy Castro, enlisted with the MOSI of 63B - Light Wheel Vehicle Mechanic. He will be going to Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, for his

Initial Active Duty Training.

Abigail Evangelista of Tinian, daughter of Antonio and Evelyn Evangelista, enlisted with the MOS of 42A - Human Resources Specialist. She will take her initial training at Ft Jackson, South Carolina.

Young men and women interested in learning more about Army and Army Reserve opportunities should contact Staff Sergeant Abadam at the U. S. Army Recruiting Station in Guam at (671) 689-7621. Send e-mail to albert.abadam@usarec.army.mil.

Information about Army Opportunities can also be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.goarmy.com>

northern marianas amusement
+red

Typhoon Dianmu delays Magicland

Magicland's arrival on Saipan will be delayed by a few days due to the untimely advent of Supertyphoon Dianmu. However, the bigger and better-than-ever Magicland 2004 is definitely on its way and is now scheduled to open at the Hopwood Junior High School on Sunday, June 27.

Fantastic entertainment, 14 super carnival rides and an array of games—great, wholesome fun and excitement for the whole family, especially the children—await one and all.

Magicland guests will be entertained by free 'mini shows' throughout the evening, including clowns, Polynesian dancing, magic acts and our internationally renowned and beautiful contortionist "Jasmine", ac-

cording to impresario Tupa'i Bruno Loyale. Magicland will open daily at 5pm.

Magicland claims that its array of 14 great rides and eight unique carnival games is the largest and best anywhere in the Pacific.

"This year we really have something for everyone, from the smallest children to the most brave-hearted adults, said Loyale. "We're bringing back many of your favorite rides from last year plus the thrilling new 'Rock-o-Plane' and hair-raising 'Octopus' for the truly adventurous."

For additional information about Magicland 2004 contact Dick Beaulieu in Fiji at (679) 672-0600; fax 672-5064; or email islmedia@connect.com.fj.

NMC tourney raises over \$100K, reduces player fees

Due to what the NMC Foundation has termed an “unprecedented success” in fundraising efforts through corporate donations, its golf committee has voted to reduce fees for individual players in the upcoming NMC Foundation Open on June 26-27, 2004. Early player entrance fees will be reduced from \$200 to \$150, with a late fee from \$300 down to \$175 for anyone who signs up after June 23.

Golf great Bruce William Devlin will play in the two-day benefit tournament at Kingfisher Golf Links to help the Northern Marianas College Foundation raise funds for higher education.

“We have already raised more than \$100K in cash donations—actually doubling our goal of \$50K—so we have decided to pass some of this benefit back to the players,” said NMC Foundation president Jerry Tan. “With a pro like Bruce Devlin attending the event, we want to make sure that more people have the opportunity to play with this great golfer who is volunteering his time to help us raise money for the college.”

According to Tan, the organizing committee has also agreed to lower the price for a golf clinic that Devlin will teach as part of the fundraising activities on Friday, June 25. The fee will go down to \$60 from \$90 for a one-hour session, \$100 for a two-hour session and \$125 for the three full hours of the clinic, which will start at 1:00 p.m. at Kingfisher Golf Links.

A very accomplished golfer, Devlin turned professional in 1961 and is an 8-time winner of the PGA Tour. He won the Senior PGA Tour in 1995 and is also well known as a professional golf commentator. He has been involved in designing and building over 140 golf courses around the world.

“The chance to play and get some personal tips from Bruce is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most of us, and certainly



FAS Moving & Storage donates \$1,500 to the Northern Marianas College in support of the 2nd Annual NMC Foundation Open fundraising event, which will be held June 26-27, 2004 at Kingfisher Golf Links. General Manager George M. Fleming, Jr., center, presents the check to foundation board members, left to right, Ivan Quichocho, David Atalig, NMC Foundation president Jerry Tan, and Michael Von Siebenthal. Golf great Bruce William Devlin will donate his time to play in the two-day benefit tournament to help the Northern Marianas College Foundation raise funds for the school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

a first for Saipan. We’re greatly looking forward to welcoming Mr. Devlin to the island and are so pleased that he has generously agreed to join our tournament and offer the clinic,” said Tan.

A committee of Foundation board members and business volunteers has been soliciting corporate donations and planning this major event for the college for the past six months. The committee is co-chaired by businesspeople and NMC Foundation board members, including Jerry Tan, Ivan Quichocho, John Cox, David Burger, Lynn Knight, Youichi Matsumura, Michael Von Siebenthal, Joanna Pai, David Atalig, Reina Camacho and Tony Satur of NMC.

Entry forms and sign ups for the tournament and clinic are being accepted at NMC, Kingfisher Golf Links, the Saipan Tribune, and Century Hotel front desk. For anyone who has already signed up and paid at the original higher fees, the organizing committee has said they will reimburse the difference in cost during the first day of the event.

For more information, call the college at 234-5498, extension 1000/1007 or Tony Satur at 888-3324.

Red flag up on 3 beach sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on three beach sites on Saipan after samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria—enterococci—that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

The beach sites are Bird Island Beach, North Laulau Beach, South Laulau Beach.

DEQ said that the bacteria found on these waters can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

“However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public

health concerns,” said the agency.

However, in order to adequately address public health concerns, DEQ is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The agency has also analyzed water samples collected from Managaha’s recreational beaches and storm water drainages and has declared the waters on the island safe for swimming.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan’s beaches every week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter.

marpac
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‘Drug prices jumped in early 2004’

WASHINGTON (AP)—Drug makers raised prescription prices by nearly triple the rate of inflation in the first three months of this year—just before Medicare began its pharmacy discount card program—negating much of the savings the government promised to seniors, according to an AARP survey released Wednesday.

Prices rose by 3.4 percent among the top 200 brand-name drugs while inflation in general was 1.2 percent in the first quarter of 2004, the study said. It tracked the prices pharmaceutical companies charge drug wholesalers.

Most of the top 10 selling drugs increased more than the average, led by Bristol-Myers Squibb’s Plavix. The price of the blood thinner increased by 7.9 percent, the 35 million-member AARP said.

Merck and Co. raised the price of Fosamax for osteoporosis by 4.9 percent while the most popular forms of Celebrex, a pain reliever, and cholesterol-reducing Lipitor—both made by Pfizer—increased by 5 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively.

“Manufacturers are offsetting discounts with prices that are higher than they otherwise would have been,” John Rother, AARP’s policy director, said at a news conference.

The Medicare card program began in June, although companies started advertising their prices in late April. The Bush administration says the average savings on brand-name drugs is 11 percent to 18 percent for discount card holders.

Under the program, companies that offer the discount card negotiate lower prices with drug companies and pharmacies.

Medicare beneficiaries can buy the cards for up \$30 and get discounts on drugs they purchase at neighborhood pharmacies or by mail order. Poor people get the cards free, plus \$600 a year to fill their prescriptions. Several drug companies will provide their products at little or no cost once that aid is exhausted.

Mark McClellan, the administration’s Medicare chief, said in an interview that people who use the cards are seeing significant savings. “None of our beneficiaries should be paying anything close to list prices for drugs and more help is available than ever before,” McClellan said.

Since the program began—after the price increases—the lowest prices available with a discount card have been essentially unchanged for Celebrex, Fosamax and Lipitor, three-best selling drugs that The Associated Press has been tracking.



A United Airlines gate agent assists travelers at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport Tuesday, June 29, 2004, in Chicago.

US Chamber endorses outsourcing of jobs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Thomas Donohue is promoting overseas outsourcing of jobs as a way to boost the economy and even increase employment—a stance that rankles jobless white-collar workers, particularly in the flagging technology industry.

Donohue, speaking Wednesday night to the Commonwealth Club of California, said he believes exporting high-paid tech jobs to low-cost countries such as India, China and Russia saves companies money that they may use to create new jobs for Americans.

CEOs from Wall Street to Silicon Valley have embraced the theory, and the pace of offshoring has shocked statisticians and economists.

In early June, the Bureau of Labor Statistics downwardly revised projections for white-collar job growth for 2002-2003, based on accelerated job migration. The agency reported that seven of the 10 occupations expected to gain the most ground are low-wage occupations that do not require a college degree.

Technology consulting firm Gartner Inc. estimates that 10 percent of computer services and software jobs will be moved overseas by the end of this year.

The job outlook in the San Francisco Bay area—home to legions of unemployed programmers since the dot-com bust of 2000—is particularly bleak. Nearly one-third of local workers, or 31 percent, are worried about losing their jobs, compared to 18 percent for the nation, according to a survey released Wednesday by staffing firm Hudson Highland Group, Inc.

Although call center jobs have been migrating to the Philippines and Malaysia since the 1990s, in the past two years cash-strapped companies have exported high-paying jobs in research and development, software engineering, chip design and biotechnology startups. Most of those jobs have gone to India and China, whose universities graduate hundreds of thousands of engineers each year.

General Electric Co., which offshores about 70 percent of its technology work, designs medical equipment in its Chinese research center and studies nanotechnology at a lab in India.

CHICAGO (AP)—United Airlines announced a 5 percent fare hike Wednesday on most flights to international destinations from the United States, citing rising fuel costs as the reason.

The increase is the latest of numerous attempts by U.S. carriers this year to try to have passengers share the burden of soaring jet-fuel prices. Last month, United rescinded a \$10-per-round-trip fuel surcharge on most North American fares after only a day when American Airlines was the only competitor to follow.

Delta Air Lines spokeswoman Peggy Estes said the Atlanta-based carrier was considering a similar hike but was still reviewing United’s action. Mary Stanik, a spokeswoman for Eagan, Minn.-based Northwest Airlines, said the company also was studying the fare hike.

“Escalating fuel prices are a growing concern throughout the airline industry,” said John Tague, executive vice president of Elk Grove Village, Ill.-based United, a unit of UAL Corp. “We must take the necessary steps to manage our exposure to this unprecedented rise in expense.”

CNMI SAFE & SOBER
CMYK

Fed raises interest rate a quarter point

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised interest rates for the first time in four years, reversing course as the economy strengthened. Policy-makers signaled only slow increases ahead in the rock-bottom rates Americans have enjoyed.

Wall Street rallied modestly on the Fed’s continued promise of a “measured” pace for future rate increases, with the Dow Jones industrial average climbing 22.05 points to 10,435.48. Bond prices also rose on the news, pushing the yield on 10-year Treasury notes down to 4.59 percent, compared with 4.69 percent the previous day.

In what was the most telegraphed rate increase in Fed history, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues announced they were boosting the target for the federal funds rate by one-quarter of a percentage point, to 1.25 percent. This rate, which represents the interest that banks charge each other on overnight loans, is the Fed’s primary tool for influencing economic activity.

The Fed’s decision triggered a one-quarter percentage point increase in commercial banks’ prime lending rate, which also had not risen in four years.

This benchmark borrowing rate for millions of consumer and business loans rose from 4 percent, the lowest since 1959, to 4.25 percent.

The Fed’s quarter-point increase was the first change since the funds rate was cut to a 46-year low of 1 percent in June 2003. That had marked

the 13th Fed rate cut in a series that began back in January 2001 as the central bank battled to jump-start an economy staggered by a series of blows, from a plunging stock market and the 2001 recession to terrorist attacks and two wars.

With Wednesday’s rate increase, borrowers have seen the lows for mortgage rates and other loans. But economists said that rates for homes and autos should continue to be attractive, given the Fed’s comments that it did not expect inflation to pose a problem soon.

The Fed reaffirmed a pledge, first made at its May meeting, that future rate increases would come “at a pace that is likely to be measured.”

“The bottom line is that the Fed is going to continue to be cautious about hiking interest rates,” said economist David Jones, author of several books on the Fed under Greenspan. “While we are seeing solid growth, we are not seeing an overheated economy.”

Jones and other analysts said they read the pledge as indicating a series of one-quarter percentage point increases spread into next year.

Many economists are looking for the Fed to keep increasing the funds rate until it hits around 4 percent. At that level, analysts said, the Fed would view the rate as neither stimulating extra growth nor acting as a drag on growth.

The rate increases are expected to have little impact in slowing the economy before the November election. That would be good news for President Bush and other incumbents.

His spokesman, Scott McClellan,

told reporters that rising interest rates were not a concern because rates are still at “historically low levels. The economy continues to be strong and grow even stronger.”

Gene Sperling, an economic adviser to Bush’s presumed Democratic rival, John Kerry, said the real threat to interest rates was not Fed action but Bush’s tax cuts, which have caused the federal budget deficit to balloon.

“The real issue is that George Bush’s abandonment of fiscal discipline will mean higher long-term interest rates, less sustainable economic growth and more debt passed on to our children,” Sperling said in a statement issued by the Kerry campaign.

The Fed statement said that since its last meeting on May 4, the economy has continued to grow “at a solid pace and labor market conditions have improved.”

The statement said that while “incoming inflation data are somewhat elevated, a portion of the increase in recent months appears to have been due to transitory factors.”

This wording echoed comments Greenspan has made in recent speeches and in congressional testimony. He has said that he saw no signs, despite a temporary surge in energy prices, that inflation was becoming a problem.

But Greenspan also has said that if this view changed, the Fed was ready to raise rates more quickly. That sentiment was reflected in the Fed’s statement, which said the central bank “will respond to changes in economic prospects as needed to fulfill its obligation to maintain price stability.”

Stocks end higher on interest rate hike

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended the first half of 2004 with a moderate advance Wednesday as the Federal Reserve’s widely expected interest rate hike allowed investors to put weeks of uncertainty behind them.

The markets’ reaction to the Fed’s move—which raises the benchmark lending rate by 0.25 percentage point—was somewhat muted, as the hike was what investors had anticipated. The increase, bringing rates off their 45-year low of 1 percent to 1.25 percent, was the first in four years.

Although the market worried about the size of the increase, and the Fed’s accompanying policy statement, there were few surprises in the end. The Fed promised to continue a “measured pace” of rate increases to combat inflation. And while it acknowledged there is a somewhat higher risk of inflation, the statement added that some of the inflation factors were transitory and that the risks were balanced.

“This has certainly been a very well telegraphed change in direction,” said Jack Caffrey, equities strategist at J.P. Morgan Private Bank. “It was an expected increase and a very balanced statement, both designed to keep the market confident in the Fed’s ability to manage the economy.”

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 22.05, or 0.2 percent, to 10,435.48.

Broader stock indicators were moderately higher. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index was up 4.64, or 0.4 percent, at 1,140.84, and the Nasdaq

composite index gained 12.86, or 0.6 percent, to 2,047.79.

Wednesday marked the halfway point of 2004, as well as the end of the second quarter. So far this year, the Dow is off 0.2 percent, but the S&P 500 has gained 2.6 percent and the Nasdaq has climbed 2.2 percent. All three major indexes were up for the quarter as well as the month of June.

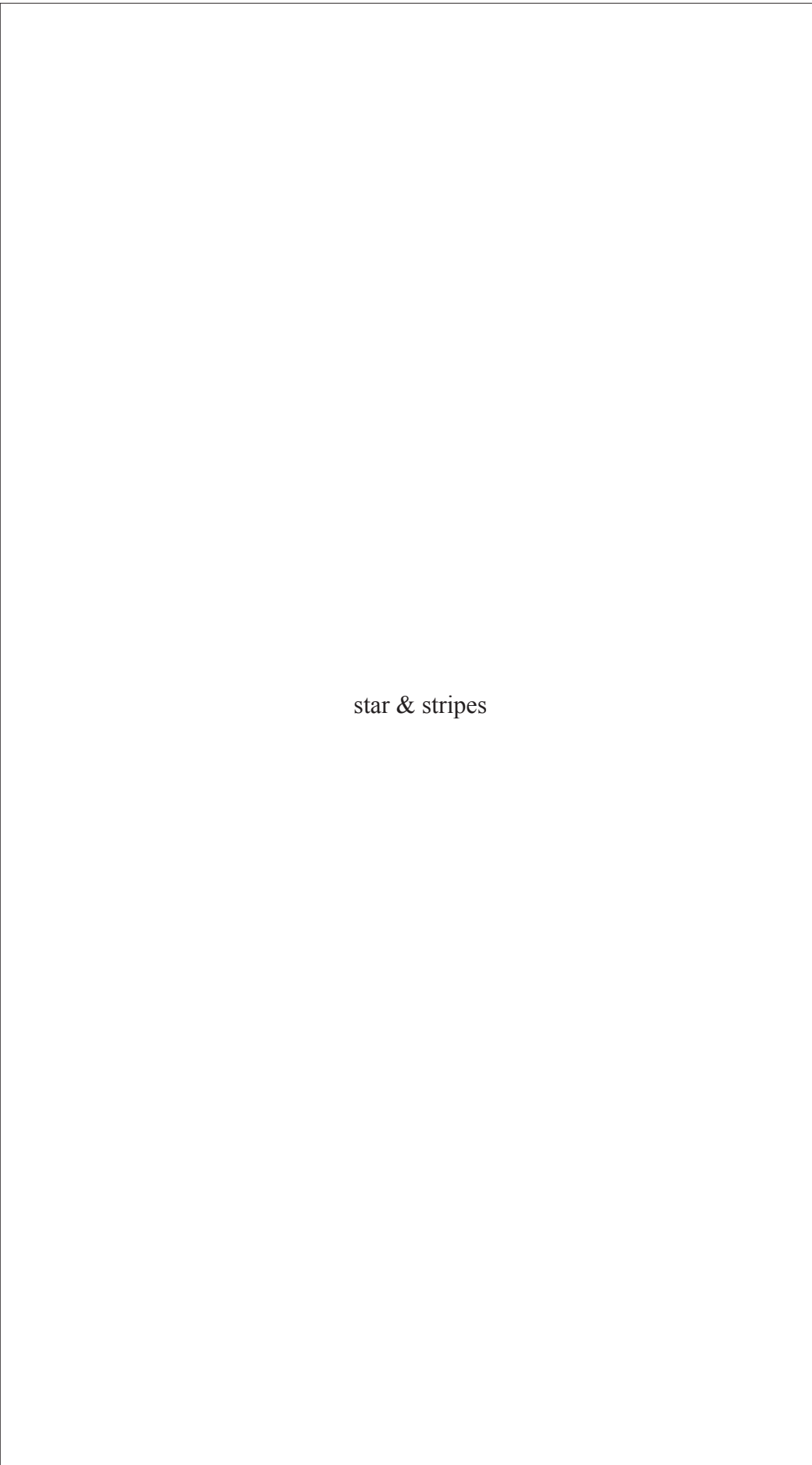
Most investors and analysts believe the Fed’s rate hike is the first of many, with another 0.25 percentage point increase possibly coming as early as the next Fed meeting in August. But with rates historically low to begin with, the cost of borrowing will still be very good for corporate America and won’t unduly affect earnings.

“We’re now in a rising rate environment, and will be for some time. I think the equity markets realize that, and that’s already built into the curve,” said Josh Feinman, chief economist for Deutsche Asset Management. “The question is, do rates go up fast or slow, more or less? It’s the trajectory, timing and the ultimate magnitude that we’ll have to watch out for.”

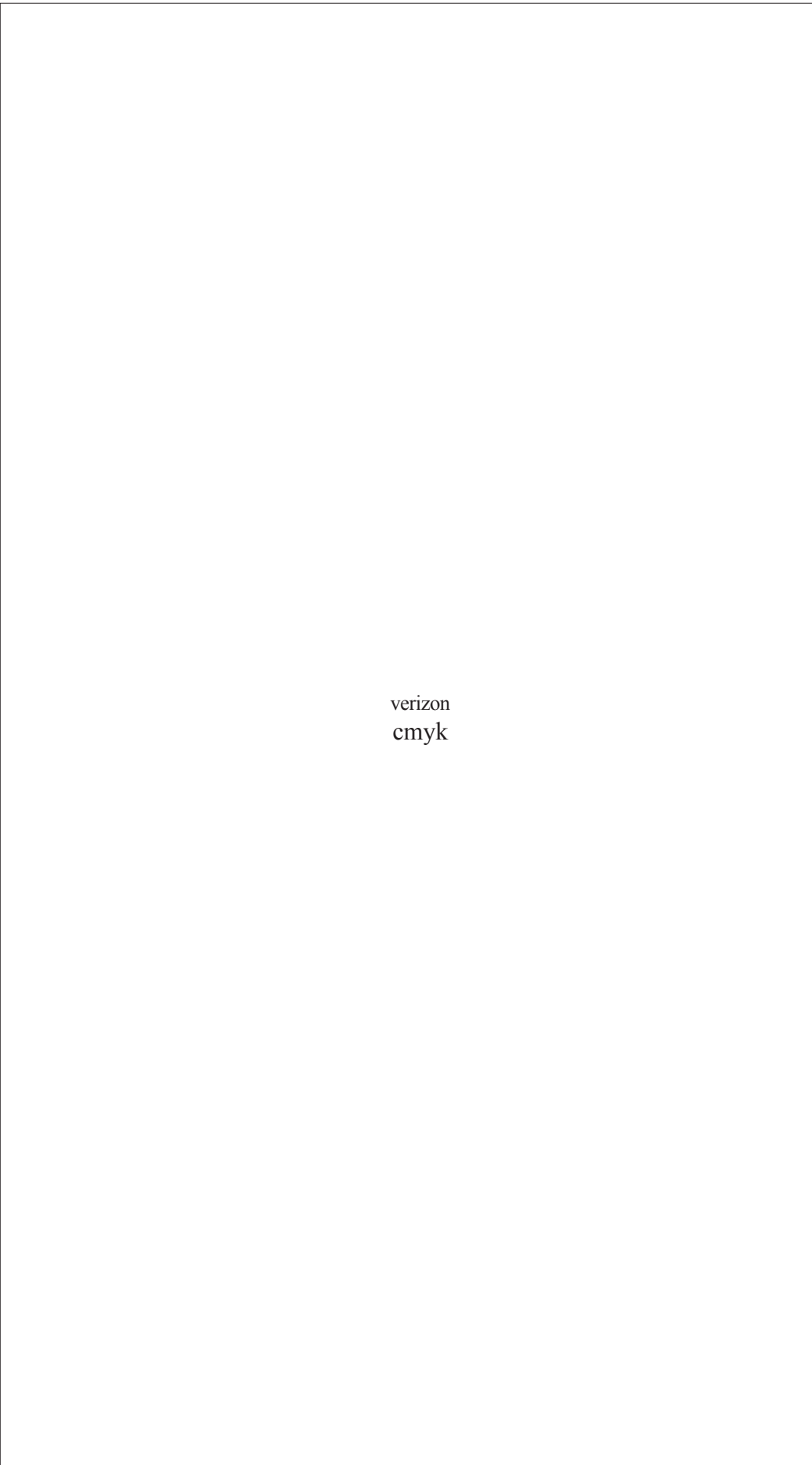
Feinman said the Fed should be able to keep to its promise of a “measured pace” of rate hikes, just as long as the economy’s growth is moderate.

Before the Fed announcement, stocks were sluggish as investors hedged their bets against a Fed surprise that never materialized. Investors are now looking ahead to the key Labor Department report on employment on Friday, as well as July’s second-quarter earnings reports.

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star & stripes



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Ports lag as shipping rules take effect

By **BRUCE STANLEY**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Measures aimed at thwarting terror attacks on ports and ships take effect Thursday, but almost half of the world’s ports and 21 percent of all cargo ships have yet to prove they’ve complied with the new security code.

As a result, shipping industry officials are bracing for delays in the movement of goods up and down the global supply chain.

The International Maritime Organization, the U.N. agency that monitors shipping safety, says progress toward meeting the deadline has been better than it might appear. Many ship owners, for instance, have submitted security plans to their governments and are awaiting certificates.

But industry officials anticipate widespread, if temporary, disruptions for the many ships and ports that still lack proof they’ve bolstered security.

“There will be delays. There’s bound to be,” said Bill Box, a spokesman in London for the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners.

With commercial ships transporting 80 percent of the world’s goods, security experts worry that vessels and ports might make tempting targets for terrorists.

The International Ship and Port Facility Security Code requires port facilities, stevedoring companies and owners of ships larger than 500 tons to draw up detailed plans for responding to a terrorist threat. The treaty, signed by 147 governments, is the shipping industry’s biggest anti-terrorist effort so far.

Failure to comply could lead to time-consuming inspections of ships that don’t meet the new standards. Ships bound for the United States from ports that don’t comply with the code could be searched by the U.S. Coast Guard and even ordered back to sea.

“There undoubtedly will be basket cases—people who haven’t taken it as seriously as they perhaps should have done—and we sincerely hope they’ll be brought into line,” said Richard Jones, a director of the British firm Maritime & Underwater Security Consultants.

According to the most recent

figures from the International Maritime Organization and other industry groups, 79 percent of all cargo ships and 72 percent of all tankers have obtained approval for their security plans. Efforts accelerated as the deadline loomed, and cruise lines achieved total compliance only at the end of June.

But port facilities have lagged far behind, with only 53 percent complying as of Wednesday. Lee Adamson of the London-based maritime organization partly blamed “administrative bottlenecks,” saying the figure was closer to 80 percent if ports that had submitted security plans for approval were included.

“The fact that the process isn’t complete doesn’t necessarily mean that a particular country is unsafe,” he said.

Even Europe’s top container port—the Dutch port of Rotterdam—fell short, with about a fifth of its 142 independently run terminals still lacking security certificates. However, most are smaller facilities that handle little intercontinental traffic, port spokesman Minco van Heezen said.

Mideast isn’t only spot oil is vulnerable

LONDON (AP)—Violence in Saudi Arabia and Iraq have kept oil-importing nations’ worries focused on the Middle East, but a recently resolved labor dispute in Norway is a reminder that supplies elsewhere can be vulnerable too.

With OPEC production stretched and the world guzzling ever more oil, analysts say a significant disruption in often-volatile Venezuela or another big exporter could cause a big price spike.

Still, they’re mostly optimistic that such a scenario is unlikely, and say it would have to coincide with more Middle Eastern trouble—like a big decline in Saudi or Iraqi production—to cause a real crisis.

An unforeseen supply disruption “is an ever-present threat,” said David Fyfe, principle oil supply analyst at the Paris-based

International Energy Agency.

Bad weather, political unrest, guerrilla attacks, labor disputes, technical problems, maintenance and accidents are always risk factors, Fyfe said.

“Random events can hold the potential to undermine non-OPEC supplies for a given year by anything up to 300,000 to 400,000 barrels a day,” he said. World oil production hovers around 81 million barrels daily.

On Friday, the government of Norway, the world’s third-largest oil exporter, ordered an end to an offshore oil workers’ labor dispute that had threatened to halt pumping.

Officials said they were ordering binding arbitration because a strike and lockout would have had serious consequences for the nation’s economy and reputation as a reliable supplier of petroleum.

Axel Busch, chief correspondent for industry newsletter Energy Intelligence, said Norway can be counted upon to settle oil disputes before they cause real trouble.

In other parts of the world, the outcomes are less certain.

In Venezuela, where a general strike paralyzed oil exports in late 2002 and early 2003, President Hugo Chavez has consolidated his control of the industry, reducing the chance of another damaging walkout, Fyfe said. But the South American nation, the world’s fifth-largest oil exporter and holder of the western hemisphere’s biggest reserves, remains unstable, and Chavez faces a planned recall vote in August.

Hints of labor unrest in Ecuador and guerrilla attacks on pipelines in Colombia make those nations potential trouble spots too, Fyfe said.

Court OKs Microsoft antitrust settlement

WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.S. appeals court on Wednesday unanimously approved the landmark antitrust settlement Microsoft Corp. negotiated with the Justice Department, setting aside objections by Massachusetts that sanctions were inadequate against the world’s largest software company.

In a significant victory for Microsoft and the Justice Department, the appeals court ruled 6-0 that the settlement was “in its entirety” in the public’s interest. The decision relieves Microsoft’s biggest courtroom headache in the United States.

In exuberant language, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit applauded provisions of the complex settlement that permit

computer makers to hide Microsoft’s built-in Web browser software so that consumers can more seamlessly use software from Microsoft’s rivals.

“We say, Well done!” the court wrote.

Microsoft’s top lawyer, Brad Smith, described the 83-page decision as a “clear and emphatic message” that its settlement with the Bush administration was proper.

The Bush administration’s top antitrust official, Assistant Attorney General R. Hewitt Pate, called the ruling a “resounding victory for the Justice Department and American consumers.”

The appeals court said an alternate settlement proposal from Massachusetts to require Microsoft to remove parts of

its software from the dominant Windows operating system could hurt consumers by leading to a confusing world with different versions of Windows.

“Letting a thousand flowers bloom is usually a good idea, but here the court found evidence ... that such drastic fragmentation would likely harm consumers,” the court wrote.

The court also rebuffed a plan by Massachusetts to require Microsoft to reveal the secret blueprints for its Web browser, saying such a move might help the company’s rivals but not help competition flourish.

Trading in Microsoft jumped as the decision was disclosed, but its price remained largely unchanged late Wednesday at \$28.56, an increase of 6 cents.

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Asia

Arroyo rivals still reject her, vow protests

By **JIM GOMEZ**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Opposition leaders ignored President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's call for unity Wednesday, insisting she cheated in last month's elections and vowing more anti-government protests.

Arroyo, 57, was sworn in for a six-year term amid tight security because of fears of protests by followers of movie star Fernando Poe Jr., her closest rival, who has refused to concede defeat.

Riot police and troops broke up a demonstration by more than 1,000 of Poe's followers near Manila on Tuesday, injuring at least four people. Poe said he was stung by tear gas in the violent dispersal and said the action only served to increase opposition to Arroyo.

"Neither the opposition nor the citizenry will be cowed by this policy of repression," Poe said in a statement. "Such policy would only heighten popular opposition to Mrs. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, whose election as president is rejected by the masses."

Poe warned that if people can no longer express their opinion in public, they might be tempted to find "other means of expressing themselves." Mass protests, dubbed "people power" revolts, ousted late dictator Ferdinand



Witnessed by family members, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, left, takes her oath as the country's 14th President during inauguration ceremony at the provincial capitol of the central Philippine city of Cebu Wednesday June 30, 2004. AP

Marcos in 1986 and Poe's friend, Joseph Estrada, in 2001.

Poe did not comment directly on Arroyo's swearing-in, but his vice presidential running mate warned that the bad weather during Arroyo's speech was a sign of bad things to come.

"It's like a prelude to what will happen in the country. We'll face more storms," Loren Legarda told reporters at news conference.

Legarda said she and Poe won't concede defeat.

"We concede that there was massive fraud. There is no need to concede defeat because we did not lose," she said.

After failing to stop Arroyo's inauguration by raising accusations of electoral fraud, Legarda said opposition lawyers are considering an electoral protest with the Supreme Court. Such protests normally take years to resolve.

Left-wing groups, which are opposed to Arroyo's close ties with Washington, also vowed to continue with protests. One group was driven back by police with truncheons in Cebu, where Arroyo took her oath. Another group of 300 activists protested in Manila, yelling "Junk Arroyo!"

In her speech, Arroyo said she would take steps to heal the political wounds that arose from the "people power" revolts. She has invited her foes to join her in a "government of national unity."

Hong Kong braces for big democracy march

By **DIRK BEVERIDGE**
AP WRITER

HONG KONG (AP)—Beijing has told Hong Kong residents they can't directly choose their next leader, but thousands were ready to march Thursday, demanding universal suffrage and venting anger at the territory's unpopular government.

The rally comes one year after 500,000 people turned out for an anti-government protest that stunned Hong Kong and Beijing—launching a "people power" movement that alarmed the central government and prompted it to clamp down on local hopes for full democracy.

Hundreds of thousands were expected to march this time, stealing the stage from official events Thursday to mark the seventh anniversary of Hong Kong's return from Britain to China.

Pro-democracy figures were hoping the march would give them momentum heading into September legislative elections that will let ordinary citizens choose 30 of the territory's 60 lawmakers.

The rest are chosen by special interest groups, such



Pro-democracy activists try to push past police as they carry a mock coffin with the Chinese characters: "A high degree of autonomy has already been buried" on Thursday, July 1, 2004, the seventh anniversary of Hong Kong's return from Britain to China. AP

as businessmen, doctors and lawyers, who tend to side with Beijing. But Beijing and the Hong Kong government are worried about ending up with a legislature that won't back Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa—which would be an unprecedented dilemma for Tung.

Hoping to blunt the impact of the rally, Beijing has made a number of conciliatory gestures in recent weeks, holding out the possibility that it will allow visits to the mainland by

pro-democracy lawmakers who have been barred for years or even branded as "traitors."

Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong called on Hong Kong people to celebrate the anniversary of the handover as "an uncommon day."

"The luster of 10,000 diamonds would be outshined by that of Hong Kong, the Pearl of the Orient," Zeng said in remarks carried Wednesday by the mainland's China Daily. "No one can take it away from us."

But many here are still angry

over Beijing's ruling in April that Hong Kong citizens cannot directly elect their next leader in 2007 or all lawmakers in 2008. Tung was chosen by an 800-member committee loyal to Beijing.

Critics charge that China has reneged on its promise to grant the territory a great deal of local autonomy under a government arrangement dubbed "one country, two systems" that was put in place at the handover.

Hong Kong's last British colonial governor, Chris Patten, said Wednesday in Singapore that Beijing should give the territory's people "rather more say in shaping their own affairs."

Human rights activist Law Yuk-kai said Beijing's attempts to make nice won't alter the central government's intention of "maintaining very strict control" over Hong Kong's political development.

"It might well reduce some of the heat in the kitchen and reduce people's incentive to go to the streets," said Law, director of the Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, a non-governmental organization. "But those people who think it's important to march will still go on."

13 charged with planting bombs in parts of Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A former police officer and 12 others were charged with rebellion Wednesday for allegedly planting three bombs that were defused in Manila.

The Department of Justice said a group led by ex-Superintendent Roberto Camarista plotted to topple President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and "install another form of government" by planting bombs in the capital and conspiring to assassinate House of Representatives Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Camarista gave himself up last Friday and confessed to "masterminding the planting of improvised bombs in metropolitan Manila," Defense Assistant Secretary Ricardo Blancaflor said Monday.

Security forces last week raided Camarista's house and seized bombmaking materials following the discovery early this month of three bombs in Manila—outside a church in the Makati financial district, near the Interior Department building in sub-

urban Quezon City and in a restaurant near the Defense Department in the Philippines' main military camp.

Camarista and 12 others were formally charged with rebellion late Tuesday at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, said state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco.

Even though the bombs failed to explode, he said the "crime of rebellion they committed was complete the moment they rose up ... and took up arms against the government to topple it."

Camarista's political affiliations weren't clear, but the discovery of explosives and subsequent arrests came as authorities warned of unrest by the opposition in a bid to disrupt Arroyo's inauguration for a six-year term following last month's closely contested elections.

Arroyo took the oath of office Wednesday without incident.

If convicted, Camarista and the others face up to 40 years in prison.

Blasts kill one in eastern Afghanistan

By STEPHEN GRAHAM
AP WRITER

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two bombs hidden in crates of fruit exploded at security checkpoints in downtown Jalalabad on Wednesday, killing a man and wounding 26 other people.

The blasts occurred a few minutes apart, shattering the windows of nearby homes and shops in the city, 80 miles east of Kabul.

One man died at a hospital. Five police officers and five children were among the wounded, said Faizan, a spokesman for the provincial government who uses one name.

“It’s a very crowded area, and they were mainly shopkeepers and people just walking by,” Faizan said.

Faizan blamed “enemies of the Afghan nation,” meaning anti-government militants such as rebels from the ousted hard-line Taliban regime.

But Hamed Agha, who says he speaks for the Taliban, said it was not involved and blamed feuds among security officials.

The blasts follow Friday’s bombing of a bus carrying female election workers in Jalalabad. Two were killed, and 13 others were wounded. The Taliban, which has vowed to disrupt the September vote, claimed responsibility for that attack.

Officials were also searching for Carmela Baranowska, a journalist working for Australian broadcaster SBS.

Cmdr. Chris Henderson, spokesman for NATO-led peacekeepers in Kabul, said they were working with Afghan authorities and the U.S. military to locate



Afghan children play in the evening at a destroyed swimming pool on a small hillock in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday.

Baranowska at the request of SBS.

The 35-year-old left a hotel in the southern city of Kandahar over the weekend with an Afghan assistant and driver.

SBS spokesman Mike Field said Baranowska had been contacted briefly by satellite phone Thursday, but the line broke and the company was unable to reconnect with her.

“So we are still not much the wiser, basically,” Field told Nine Network television.

In Canberra, a spokeswoman for the Australian foreign ministry said her government was also trying to track Baranowska down. She said there was

no evidence she had been kidnapped.

Abdul Hakim Latifi, another purported spokesman for the Taliban, said the militia was not holding her.

“We don’t have a problem with journalists. Maybe some thief took her,” he said.

Khalid Pashtun, a spokesman for Kandahar’s governor, said Baranowska had not asked officials for advice on security beyond Kandahar city, which is patrolled by American troops.

“We’re trying to find out about her, but right now we know nothing,” Pashtun said.

In neighboring Uruzgan province, suspected Taliban stopped four supply trucks bound for an American base, burning them and abducting 12 people, an official said.

Uruzgan Gov. Jan Mohammed Khan said hundreds of Afghan troops combing the province’s Char Cheno district killed three Taliban fighters in a skirmish on Tuesday.

Four people were arrested in a search of nearby villages that also turned up dozens of assault rifles and a cache of mines rigged for remote detonation, Khan said.

Chinese food poisoning sickens 87

BEIJING (AP)—A total of 87 people were stricken with food poisoning in two separate cases in China’s north and east, a state news agency reported Wednesday.

In the first case, 46 students and teachers suffered diarrhea and stomach pains Sunday after eating in a school cafeteria in the eastern city of Tongling, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Investigators blamed contaminated food served at the Xingzhi Middle School, and all the patients had recovered by Wednesday, the report said.

On Tuesday, a group of 41 construction workers fell ill in the city of Ulan Hot in the northern region of Inner Mongolia, Xinhua said in a separate report.

It said authorities were testing their food, but suspected an overdose of nitrites was to blame.

Such mass poisoning cases are reported frequently in China.

They often are blamed on poor sanitation or cooks who put poisons or toxic cleaning materials in food, mistaking them for salt and other ingredients.

Misuse of nitrite has been cited in earlier cases. It is used as a preservative, but large amounts can be poisonous.

In April, 115 people who ate at a restaurant in central China reportedly suffered nitrite poison after a cook mistakenly put the chemical in mutton soup.

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Some 3,000 mourn slain S. Korea hostage

By YOUNG-JOON AHN
AP WRITER

BUSAN, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean man beheaded in Iraq was buried Wednesday, and his family asked 3,000 mourners to support the troubled nation where he was killed.

Kim Sun-il, a 33-year-old translator at a company supplying the U.S. military, was killed by Islamic militants on June 22, after South Korea refused to bow to his captors' demand to cancel plans to send 3,000 troops to Iraq beginning in August.

Kim's funeral was held in a gymnasium decorated with white chrysanthemums and strung with a banner reading "I love Iraq," written in English, Arabic and Korean.

In a message read by Kim's brother, Jin-kook, the family offered forgiveness and reconciliation.

"We want to tell you today on Sun-il's behalf that Sun-il's very dream was for all of us who were witnesses to Sun-il's tragedy to love you and your

nation of Iraq," the family said. "We embrace the nation of Iraq. We love the people of Iraq."

Televised images of Kim in captivity and the news of his beheading stunned South Korea, triggering criticism of the government's handling of the case and sharpening the national debate over the decision to send troops to assist the U.S.-led coalition. More than 600 South Korean troops are already deployed in Iraq.

During Wednesday's funeral ceremony, many sobbed when a friend of Kim repeated the desperate appeals Kim made in the televised videotape: "I don't want to die. I want to live."

President Roh Moo-hyun sent a presidential aide to relay condolences. Several political leaders from both the ruling and opposition groups attended the ceremony.

Kim was later buried in a Christian cemetery, as friends and relatives released 200 white balloons, according to local news reports.

Candlelight vigils have been held nightly in the capital of Seoul to mourn Kim and demand

that the government reverse its plans. A group of lawmakers—some from Roh's own ruling party—are backing a resolution to reconsider the mission.

Kim's body was returned to his hometown of Busan on South Korea's southeast coast Saturday, his coffin draped in the national flag.

Last week, Roh ordered the state-run Board of Audit and Inspection to investigate Kim's slaying amid concerns that the government could have done more to secure his release.

A team of South Korean government auditors arrived in Amman, the capital of Jordan, on Wednesday to question staff from the South Korean Embassy in Iraq, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

In Seoul, investigators planned to question the head of the company where Kim worked, Cana General Trading Co. They were expected to ask Kim Chun-ho when he first informed the South Korean Embassy of Kim's kidnapping, and about his efforts to win his release.



Police honour guards carry the coffin of South Korean Kim Sun-il who was killed by militants in Iraq, during the funeral ceremony in Busan Wednesday, June 30, 2004. AP

India Air carriers tighten security

NEW DELHI (AP)—Security aboard Air-India and Indian Airlines flights has been stepped up after intelligence reports last week suggested terrorists might try to hijack an Indian plane flying to or from the Persian Gulf, an airline spokesman said Wednesday.

The state-run carriers were taking numerous anti-hijacking measures, Air-India spokesman Jitender Bhargava said. He declined to give details about who is suspected of planning such an attack.

"The alert was sounded a week ago and it continues," said Bhargava, who was also speaking on behalf of Indian Airlines. Both airlines are state-owned. The alert was first reported in newspapers on Wednesday.

Additional security arrangements include frisking passengers and a final check before boarding, Bhargava said.

The warning about a possible hijacking of a Gulf-bound plane was issued by India's Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, the Indian Express Newspaper re-

ported Wednesday, when news of the alert first emerged.

The warning was based on a tip from defense intelligence units, who said it applied specifically to flights to or from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, the report said.

Officials at New Delhi airport received a telephone call Wednesday warning that a flight to the southern Indian city of Hyderabad later in the day would be hijacked, the Press Trust of India reported, quoting an unidentified police official.

Commandos rushed to the tarmac and began checking flights, but the call turned out to be a hoax, the news agency said.

Air-India and Indian Airlines operate 150 flights a week to various Persian Gulf destinations, including the Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar. Security has been increased on all flights to the Gulf, Bhargava said.

The Indian Express said additional security staff had been hired by both airlines to guard their aircraft at Dubai airport.

Report: Southwest China rains kill 15

BEIJING (AP)—Floods and mudslides triggered by torrential rain killed 15 people in China's southwestern province of Sichuan, the government said Wednesday.

Some areas received 4 inches of rain in the four days ending Wednesday, according to provincial authorities cited by the official Xinhua News Agency.

A landslide in the city of Yibin killed six people and left seven missing, Xinhua said.

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Swiss question Bhutto in corruption case

GENEVA (AP)—Swiss investigators questioned Pakistan’s former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday over allegations she used bank accounts in the European country to launder millions of dollars in kickbacks.

Smiling and appearing confident, Bhutto arrived with a group of lawyers and aides Wednesday afternoon for her closed-door meeting at Geneva’s Palais de Justice.

Bhutto was convicted of money laundering in July 2003 under a Swiss law that empowers high-level investigators to impose penalties without a court hearing. But the conviction was automatically thrown out when she contested it, prompting a fresh round of questioning.

Conducting the questioning Wednesday was investigating magistrate Christine Junod, said Bhutto’s lawyer, Farook Naek.

Swiss authorities said in 1998 they found about 20 million Swiss francs, then \$13.8 million, in Swiss accounts belonging to Bhutto and her family. The accounts were frozen at Pakistan’s request.

Swiss and Pakistani investigators allege much of the money came from kickbacks made by a Swiss company in exchange for business with the Pakistani government when Bhutto was in power.

Bhutto, who lives in exile in the United Arab Emirates, has denied the charges, saying they are part of a Pakistani campaign against her.

“The accounts have nothing to do with me,” Bhutto told The Associated Press after emerging from her hourlong appearance. “I have been wrongfully roped into this matter and I’m looking forward to assist the Swiss

inquiry to clear my name.”

Before Bhutto left for Geneva, her Pakistani political party reiterated its support for her.

The Pakistan People’s Party said in a statement issued in Islamabad, Pakistan, that Bhutto welcomed “the reopening of the inquiry to settle the politically motivated charges leveled by the government of Pakistan once and all.”

Bhutto was twice prime minister of Pakistan, but her governments collapsed in 1990 and 1996 over corruption allegations.

Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, is also being investigated by Swiss authorities in connection with the laundering charges.

But Zardari, who is jailed in Pakistan on other corruption charges, has refused to go to Switzerland for questioning, despite a Pakistani offer to temporarily release him.



GATES IN CHINA
Microsoft founder Bill Gates wears a silk scarf presented to him by a Tibetan student, right, as he poses with students during a visit to a middle school in Beijing Thursday July 1, 2004. Gates donated computers and software to the school, and launched an initiative to build computer labs in rural Chinese schools. The visit is part of an effort to boost Microsoft’s image in China and build partnerships with the Chinese government.

Myanmar: Suu Kyi can seek future office

By **CHRIS BRUMMITT**
AP WRITER

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Myanmar’s detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi will be allowed to run in future elections, the Indonesian foreign minister said Wednesday, quoting his Myanmar counterpart.

The comments came at a meeting of foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Jakarta. Myanmar’s treatment of Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, is threatening to overshadow the summit and is testing the 10-member grouping’s core policy of noninterference in each other’s internal affairs.

“Myanmar disclosed that once the constitution is established, Madame Suu Kyi can participate in the future elections,” Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda told reporters.

Myanmar Foreign Minister Win Aung made the pledge in a closed-door meeting, said Wirayuda, who declined to give more details.

Military-ruled Myanmar, also known as Burma, is holding a national convention to draft a constitution that would allow a return to civilian rule. But no

timeline has been set, and Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy party is boycotting the process.

Suu Kyi has been detained for more than a year and is currently under house arrest. The junta has refused to say when she will be released, insisting that freeing her could cause instability in the country.

Earlier Wednesday, the ministers issued a joint statement that watered down what ASEAN officials said earlier would be strong language urging faster political reform in Myanmar.

“We encouraged all concerned parties in Myanmar to continue their efforts to affect a smooth transition to democracy,” the statement said.

ASEAN is coming under increasing pressure from European nations to take a harder line on Myanmar, but Wirayuda defended the group’s approach.

“There has been progress,” Wirayuda said, citing as examples the release of a so-called road map to reform and the national convention. “We should not belittle its (Myanmar’s) efforts.”

Earlier this month, the European Union scrapped talks with Asian finance and economics ministers after they insisted Myanmar be included in an

October summit of Asian and European leaders in Vietnam.

Myanmar is due to take over the ASEAN chair in 2006.

Opening Wednesday’s meeting, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri urged Myanmar to do more to introduce democratic reforms—a rare instance of public criticism of the junta by a fellow Southeast Asian country.

“We do encourage Myanmar to take every action that will add substance to the expression of its democratic aspiration,” she said in a speech. “We fervently believe that Southeast Asia ought to be progressive and not conservative when it comes to public participation in governance and in the promotion and protection of human rights.”

Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta of East Timor, which is not an ASEAN member but attends its meetings as a guest, said Myanmar’s junta regularly used its veto power in the group to water down criticism.

“ASEAN is embarrassed generally with the inflexibility of the Myanmar authorities in dealing with Suu Kyi,” said Ramos-Horta, who was the 1996 Nobel peace laureate. “What harm has she done to anyone ever?”

Court nixes suit by student who sued dad

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A court threw out a lawsuit Wednesday by a Malaysian student who sued his estranged father for tuition so he could complete his degree at a British university.

Foo Dui Geng, 23, filed an application in the High Court in the northern state of Perak last September seeking more than \$21,000 from his father to pay for his final year of accounting studies at Nottingham Trent University.

Judicial Commissioner Balia Yusuf Wahi ruled that financial support from parents was com-

pulsory only for children less than 18 years old—except for those suffering physical or mental disabilities, Foo’s lawyer, M. Kulasegaran, told The Associated Press.

Balia also ordered Foo to pay his father \$800 in legal costs.

In his suit, Foo claimed that his college fees and accompanying living expenses fell within the terms of a divorce settlement in which his father, Foo Woon Keat, promised to pay maintenance.

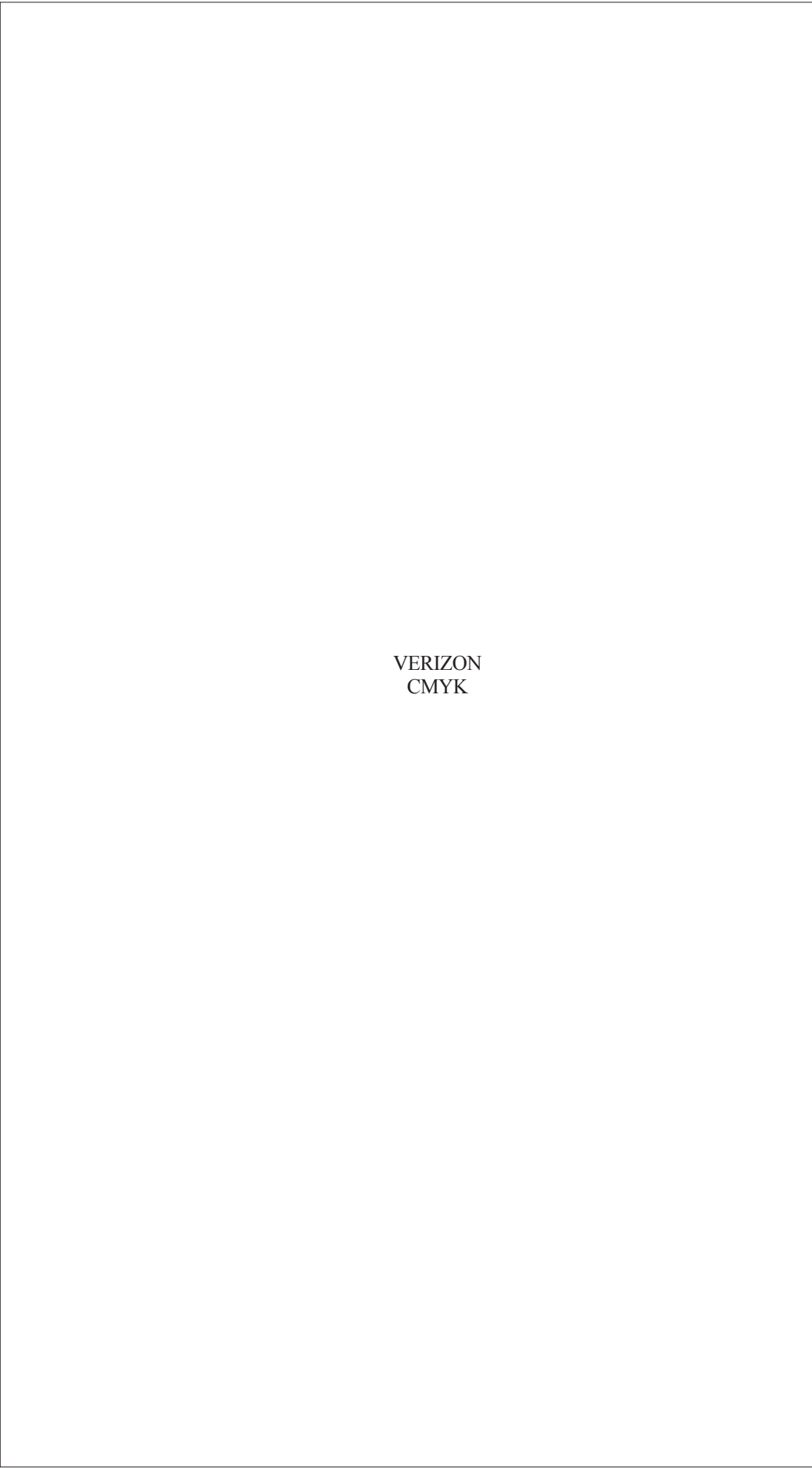
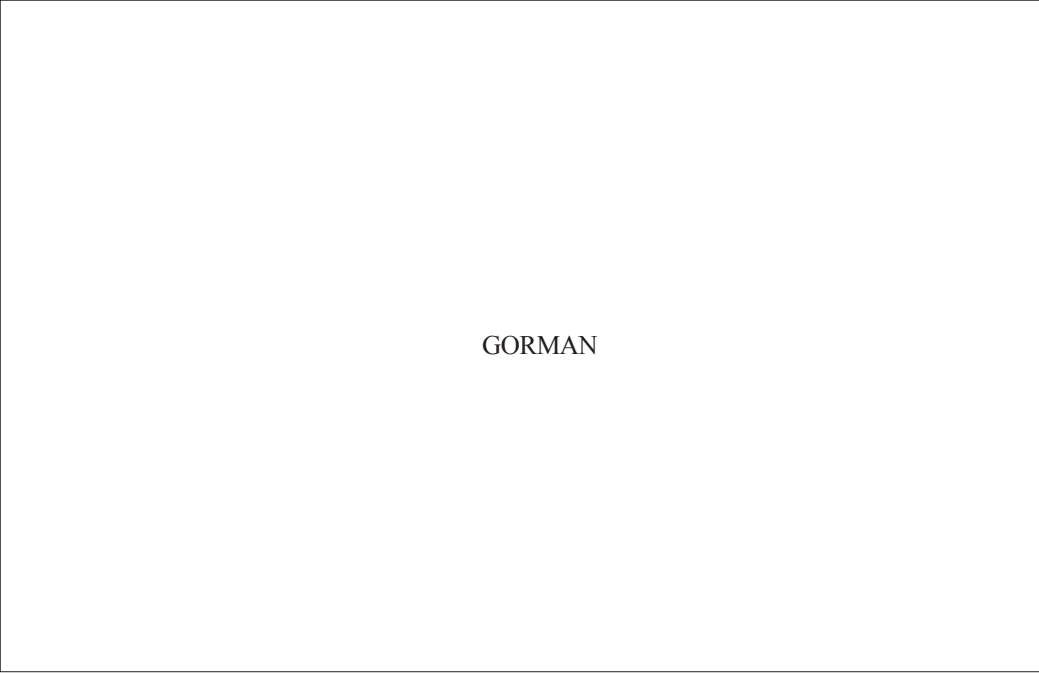
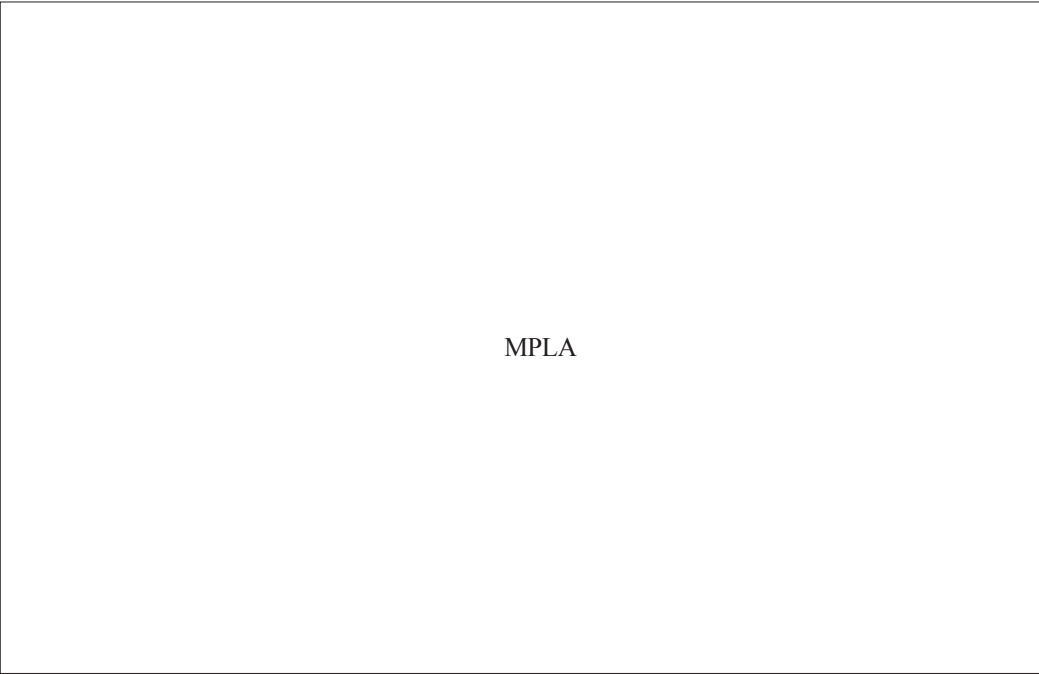
Foo’s parents separated when he was four years old, the lawyer said. The relationship between

the father and son deteriorated recently because of disputes over university payments.

Foo was not expected to appeal the verdict—though he has not yet been informed of the court outcome because he was currently in Britain finishing his degree after obtaining a bank loan in January to cover his expenses, Kulasegaran added.

Kulasegaran, who is also an opposition member of Parliament, said he planned to table a motion seeking amendments to Malaysian law so parents will have to pay for a child’s education until the age of 25.

JET COSTCO



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Science & Technology

Life & Style

Tempestuous musings for the mind, body, and soul

By JOE CONNOLLY
JJZHOU@VZPACIFIC.NET

During tropical storms and typhoons we all have time on our hands. As TingTing imposed housebound conditions I decided to put my titanos (brain) and time together with my hands and write a few poems concerning the passage of time. Here are three poems with time broken into traditional segments of months of the year, days of the week and the time of tropical storm/typhoon TingTing:

The Yearly Pleasures of Monthly Measures

January cold starts the year
February hearts love devotion
March hare dreams of warmth
April fools cause a commotion

May bees bumbling soon
June heat is here for sure
July corn is shooting high
August lazy catfish lure

September apple falls in a barrel
October leaves cider going fast
November needs a tender turkey
December candy canes don't last

Hebdomadal Hearsay

Hear out these weekly words -

Monday madness reigns
Tuesday bears the strains

Wednesday wears down the week
Thursday getting mild and meek

Friday night free for all
Saturday an overhaul

Sunday diminuendo
Seven days gone out the window

-here we go again, hear hear

Time Out for Typhoon Ting Ting

A tale of a tropical storm turned typhoon

listen! listen! listen to the sound
as the wind blows and the rain pours down

plenty power lines twisted and broken
show the wind from Ting Ting has spoken

no TV news in fact no power
silence reigns for hour after hour

the power is off then back on again
it will come back but we don't know when

papaya and banana trees uprooted and bent
while more wind and more rain is sent

mopping up the mess on the kitchen floor
as water seeps in under the door

finadene, corned beef, rice, spam and soba
coffee and navy biscuit when friends come over

front yard, backyard, side yards a complete mess
though cleaning up can be fun sometimes I guess

utility men work outside at a deliberate and careful speed
to restore the power and water that we all need

thanks to all who help during and after the storm
to get all the islands infrastructure back to norm

now Ting Ting's gone and moved out to sea
lets take time out to rest - both you and me



URBAN OUTLET
LIBDAY SALE
+red

China’s men discover ‘self beauty’

By AUDRA ANG
AP WRITER

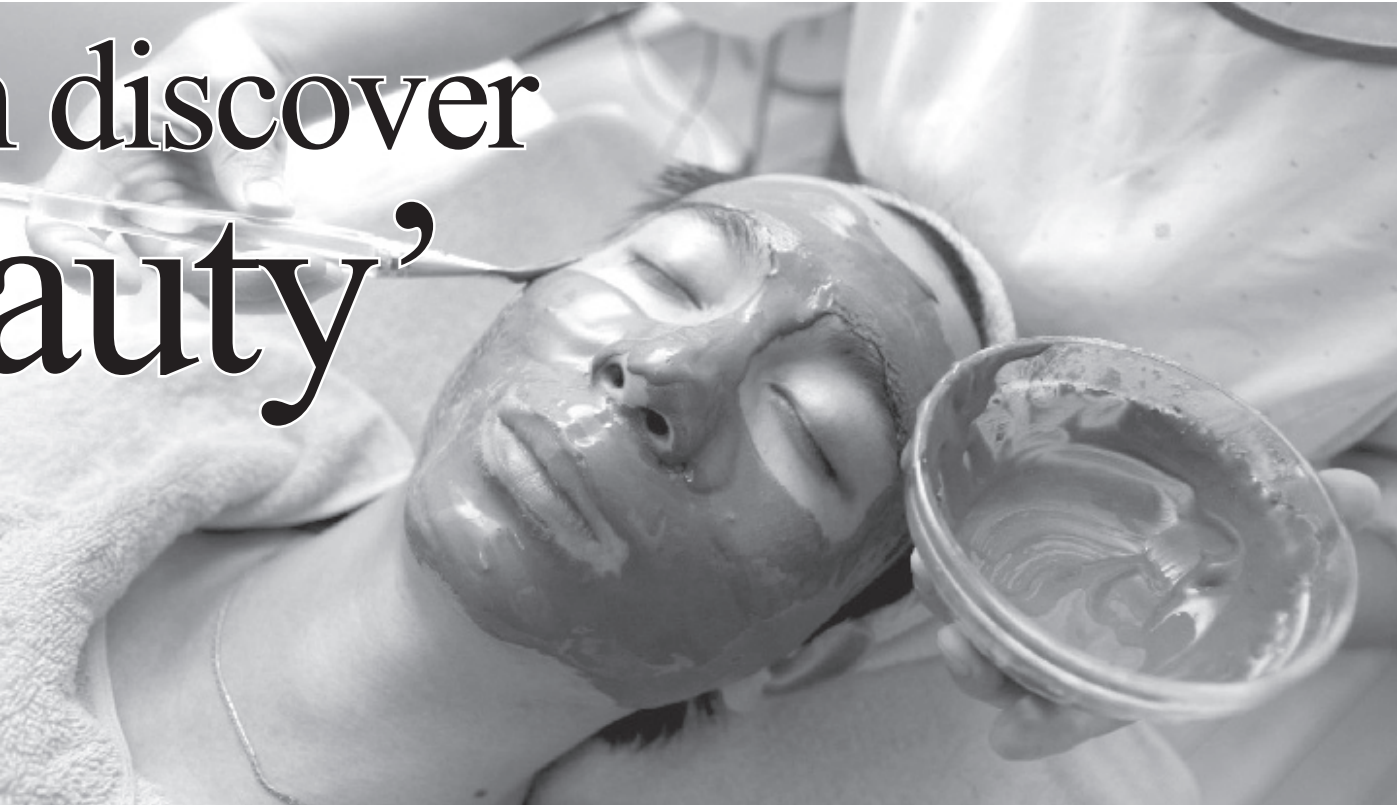
BEIJING (AP)—Pop music wafts through the Extraordinary Space Spa as Su Xin sinks into a chair, skin glowing and mood mellow after a facial and aromatherapy massage scented with lavender and sandalwood.

“I just feel so good now,” said the 37-year-old travel agent, who

comes every two weeks to the airy, plant-filled spa in a luxury Beijing apartment complex.

Beauty salons are well established in today’s look-good China. Sales of cosmetics and designer fashions are surging. But something sets Su apart: He’s a he.

Hundreds of salons like Extraordinary Space are springing up in Beijing and other cit-



AP

Yang Yong gets a facial at the Extraordinary Space Spa in Beijing Tuesday June 15, 2004. China's male beauty market, ignored until recently, is booming, with hundreds of salons springing up in Beijing and other major cities, targeting male customers.

ies, targeting male customers with eye-bag and weight-loss treatments.

China’s booming male beauty market reflects the enthusiasm of a newly prosperous society to look and feel good—and the eagerness of Chinese and foreign companies to cash in.

Cosmetic surgery is wildly popular. Gyms are packed. Pharmacies sell pore-cleansing strips and facial foams for men.

They cater to “aimei nanren,” or “love-beauty men,” China’s equivalent of the West’s metrosexuals who embrace facials and other traditionally female grooming rituals.

“It’s a new way of thinking,” said Su, whose wife persuaded him to get his first facial in 2001. “I came to the spa once, twice, three times, and before I knew it, it was part of my routine.”

The mammoth China International Hair and Beauty Festival this summer in Beijing will showcase the growing range of male beauty products, says its sponsor, the China Hair and Beauty Association.

“Beauty products are regularly used only by rich men and models or actors now,” said a spokeswoman, Peng Shengguo. “But more and more ordinary guys are beginning to do the same thing.”

In November, Chinese men will get a chance to flaunt their new look in what organizers say is the country’s first Mr. China beauty pageant.

It comes less than a year after China hosted Miss World, its first international beauty pageant.

“We want people to appreciate manly beauty, which represents strength and courage. It also represents the spirit and the image of our nation,” said Ren Qiao, head of Mr. China’s organizing committee.

Competitors will be judged not only on appearance but knowledge, outdoor survival skills and public service activities. Prizes will go to Mr. Welfare, Mr.

Health, Mr. Gentleman, Mr. Wisdom and Mr. Honest.

“A few years ago, if you let a male get on a catwalk, it would not have been acceptable,” said the beauty association’s Peng. “Right now, many men want to show off on stage.”

So far, about 100 hopefuls have signed up.

“I think people would spend time and money to watch the competition,” said Zheng Yuan, a 22-year-old who paid the \$12 registration fee. “They have seen so many female contests, but this time they can watch something which is more demanding and comprehensive.”

Wang Ping, the Minnesota-based author of “Aching for Beauty: Footbinding in China,” pins the changes on China’s exposure to the outside world.

“Beauty is flourishing once again,” Wang said. “The tradition which cherished the delicate, refined features and mind for a beautiful man is now infused with the modern, Western ideas of sexy, athletic and wealthy.”

At Extraordinary Space, display cases over such exotica as “dark chloasma cream” and “viable cell nutritious cream.”

Manager Wu Qiang, his hair permed and teased, said more people are realizing the importance of appearances.

“Really, they are key in life,” Wu said. “With women, it’s almost a form of politeness to put on some makeup and look pretty when they are meeting friends.

“I feel there should be the same form of respect with men.”

Su, the customer, is dressed in a sheer black polo shirt and khakis. Besides facials, he has dieted and exercised, dropping 33 pounds.

“The quality of people’s lives is getting better and the demands are increasing,” Su said. “This kind of luxury is something that is becoming more necessary. It’s something that goes beyond the basics of life.”

MELL COSTCO
+RED/BLUE



AP

Ancient Indian pottery is displayed in the archeology lab at the former Wilcox ranch Wednesday, June 30, 2004, in the Range Creek area southeast of East Carbon City, Utah.

Canyon with ancient remains is revealed

By PAUL FOY
AP WRITER

EAST CARBON CITY, Utah (AP)—Archaeologists led reporters into a remote canyon Wednesday to reveal an almost perfectly preserved picture of ancient life: stone pit houses, granaries and a bounty of artifacts kept secret for more than a half-century.

Hundreds of sites on a private ranch turned over to the state offer some of the best evidence of the little-understood Fremont culture, hunter-gatherers and farmers who lived mostly within the present-day borders of Utah.

Hundreds of rock art panels are scattered across the canyon along Range Creek, some colored in red, white, yellow, black and peach. On one panel, the ancient inhabitants etched spirals and human figures with miniature hands among animal figures.

“Many other places in the West have rock art panels, but hardly one of them doesn’t have someone’s name scratched across it. That’s what makes this place so unique,” Utah state archaeologist Kevin Jones said.

Archaeologists said the villages were occupied more than 1,000 years ago, and may be as old as 4,500 years.

A caravan of news organizations traveled for two hours from the mining town of East Carbon City, over a serpentine thriller of a dirt road that topped an 8,200-foot mountain before dropping

into the narrow canyon in Utah’s Book Cliffs region.

Officials kept known burial sites and human remains out of view of reporters and cameras, but within a single square mile of verdant meadows, archaeologists showed off one village site and said there were five more, where arrowheads, pottery shards and other artifacts can still be found lying on the ground.

Archaeologists said the occupation sites, which include granaries full of grass seed and corn, offer an unspoiled slice of life of the ancestors of modern American Indian tribes. The settlements are scattered along 12 miles of Range Creek and up side canyons.

“We’ve documented about 225 sites, and it’s just scratching the surface,” Utah state archaeologist Kevin Jones said. “There are hundreds of other sites.”

Hundreds of granaries, ranging from cupboard-sized to several yards across, are in some cases hundreds of feet up nearly inaccessible cliffs. They offer evidence, Jones said, that the people moved around seasonally and left stores of food.

The pit houses’ roofs of cedar and dirt have long collapsed, but Jones said in their day they were “warm and snug in the winter and cool in the summer.”

The half-buried houses don’t have the grandeur of New Mexico’s Chaco Canyon or Colorado’s Mesa Verde, where

overhanging cliffs shelter stacked stone houses. But they are remarkable in that hold a treasure of information about the Fremont culture that has been untouched by looters.

The Fremont people were efficient hunters, taking down deer, elk, bison and small game and leaving behind piles of animal bone waste, Jones said. They fished for abundant trout in Range Creek, using a hook and line or weirs. In their more advanced stage they grew corn, although cultivation could be risky in dry years or when bears raided stocks, he said.

Waldo Wilcox, the rancher who sold the land and returned Wednesday, kept the archaeological sites a closely guarded secret for more than 50 years.

“I looked at it like this: I wanted to keep it the way it is,” said Wilcox, 74, who moved to Green River and retired. “But when I die, I’m not going to have a lot to say about it. I finally decided I’ll take a little money and get out now.”

The San Francisco-based Trust for Public Land bought Wilcox’s 4,200-acre ranch for \$2.5 million. The conservation group transferred the ranch to the Bureau of Land Management, which turned it over to Utah.

The deal calls for the ranch to be opened for public access, a subject certain to raise debate over the proper stewardship of a significant archaeological find.

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New day dawns for Hawke in 'Before Sunset'

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After a single night together, new lovers Jesse and Celine parted on a Vienna train platform nine years ago, promising to meet at the same spot again six months later.

Fans of the 1995 sleeper hit "Before Sunrise" have wondered since then if American Jesse (Ethan Hawke) and Frenchwoman Celine (Julie Delpy) kept that rendezvous. The answer comes Friday with "Before Sunset," a continuation of the story that reunites Hawke, Delpy and writer-director Richard Linklater.

Since the movie divulges it early on, it's no state secret to tell you that one of them turned up on the platform at the appointed time and the other did not.

"We were all wrong the first time," Linklater said in an interview alongside Hawke and Delpy, with whom he co-wrote "Before Sunset." "The first round, nine years ago, everybody goes, 'Do they get together or not?' I said, 'Yeah, I think they do. But maybe I'm a romantic.' But they didn't get together, so I was wrong."

Now Jesse and Celine—who met casually on a train and spent the next 14 hours talking, wandering Vienna and tumbling into love before Jesse had to catch a plane home—meet up again in Paris.

Jesse has written a novel based on their one-night affair and is just finishing a European book tour. Celine turns up at a Paris bookstore where Jesse is doing a reading.

Again, time is not on their side. They only have an hour or two before Jesse has to head to the airport for a flight to New York, where he now lives with his wife and young child.

The movie unfolds in real time as Jesse and Celine stop at a cafe, wander the streets, take a garden stroll and hitch a ride on a tourist boat along the Seine.

They talk about their current relationships, Jesse with his family, Celine with her boyfriend. They laugh about the



"Before Sunset" actors Ethan Hawke, left, Julie Delpy, and director Richard Linklater pose on Thursday, June, 24, 2004, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Delpy and Hawke co-wrote the screenplay which is a sequel to their 1995 film "Before Sunrise."

reckless passion of their earlier selves compared to the responsible people they are now. They wonder what might have been had they met again that day nine years earlier. And gradually, they reveal that they have unfinished romantic business between them.

"We all do," said Delpy, 34. "We all have that."

"Whether or not you have it for real or it's a fantasy," added Hawke, 33. "It could just be a fantasy person, the person you haven't met. You have this feeling there's somebody out there. Did I miss them?"

"We're prone to these abstractions about what's missing in our lives," said Linklater, 43, who directed last fall's hit "The School of Rock." "If you're

having trouble in your relationship or it's not quite what you hoped, because no one will ever be everything for you. We're all imagining some ideal thing that if you were given the chance would make all the difference."

Delpy, Hawke and Linklater concede that no one in Hollywood was hankering for a follow-up to "Before Sunrise," which was not the sort of smash hit that normally spells sequel.

The three would just kick around the idea whenever they came together, and it crystallized in late 1999 when Hawke and Delpy did a brief scene together as Jesse and Celine for Linklater's animated film "Waking Life."

They spent a few days in Los Angeles hashing out the story, and the

screenplay grew from e-mails and phone conversations among them. The final script came together during a three-day writing blitz in Paris.

The film was shot in a whirlwind 15-day shoot last fall. Delpy also wrote and sang three songs for the soundtrack.

"Before Sunset" opens in limited release in nine cities and expands to more markets through July. With a tiny budget of \$2.7 million, about the same as "Before Sunrise," the new movie is a low-risk affair compared to summer flicks with \$100 million-plus budgets.

Though it will not take a huge audience for the film to earn back its money, Delpy, Hawke and Linklater made sure to give their pet project a commercial plug.

"I think people should go see this

one, then go back and rent 'Before Sunrise,' then go back and see this one again," Delpy said. "And take their friends and their mother."

"And if you go to another movie, buy a ticket to our movie, too," Linklater added.

"Before Sunset" ends with more uncertainty for Jesse and Celine's future. If the right ideas strike them down the road, Delpy, Hawke and Linklater said they might consider future films about Jesse and Celine, possibly even carrying their romantic saga into old age.

"I think that would be the best one. With us in our 70s," Hawke said. "I would just be incredibly happy if we were that old and still friends and still interested in the same subject matter. That would be pretty exciting."

'Shadow Divers' takes on deep-sea diving

By PAULINE M. MILLARD
AP WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The crazy, dangerous world of deep-sea shipwreck diving, and the discovery of a sunken German World War II sub off New Jersey, are woven into a tale of grit and friendship in the hot-selling summer read "Shadow Divers."

Written by Esquire's Robert Kurson, with the help of adventurers John Chatterton, the late Bill Nagle and Richie Kohler, the book is expected to rival "The Perfect Storm" and "Into Thin Air" in beach-chair popularity.

Released Tuesday amid glowing reviews, Kurson's nonfiction story was No. 4 on Amazon.com's best seller list by Wednesday, with 180,000 copies in print.

Kurson, who doesn't even know how to swim, told The Associated Press in a recent interview that he was drawn into the high-stakes world of deep wreck diving after a phone call from a friend.

The friend said that Nagle, a washed-up diver who ran a charter boat business, and Chatterton, who was working underwater construction

for a living, had come across a sunken German submarine in 1991 off Brielle, N.J. No one, not even the Navy, had known or even suspected it was there, Kurson said.

With no knowledge of the dangerous and cliquey world of deep sea diving, a world inhabited by weekend warriors lurking in shadowy, lethal depths, Kurson's answer was a resounding "Yes!"

"Would you believe that there are East Coast dive gangs with colors and stuff like that?" Kurson said. "That divers have tried to knife each other underwater over a tea cup?"

Kurson, 41, pored over charts and history books, traveling to Germany and contacting the ex-wives and girlfriends of many of the 14 divers on the team of 14 divers who went down to investigate the wreck.

"Most of these guys want to be the first to connect with a moment in time, to see a moment before anyone else," said Kurson, who lives in Chicago. "That's what motivates deep wreck divers."

What they found in the Atlantic, at the perilous depth of 230 feet

less than 60 miles from Brielle, was the German submarine U-869, long thought to have sunk off Gibraltar in 1945. Through Kurson's research and the expedition's discovery, the book reveals that instead, the U-boat apparently was felled by its own backfired torpedo off New Jersey.

Kurson details the seeming desperation of the sub's 56-member crew, reconstructing their stories through relics found in the wreck and interviews with their families in Germany. The sub had been ordered to New York but missed its rerouting instructions to Gibraltar and kept on going to New Jersey, the book said.

Kurson stops short of theorizing whether New York City or its neighbor state were targets.

"It occurred to me that there were shadows cast throughout the story, by the fallen crewmen, by World War II, by the seeming infallibility of written history ...," Kurson wrote.

Books about World War II and adventure tend to sell well, but "Shadow Divers" was bought mainly because of Kurson's ability to tell a story, said Jonathan Karp, the editor at Random

House who acquired it just 48 hours after receiving the book proposal.

Kurson said he and the divers sold movie rights after a recent bidding war.

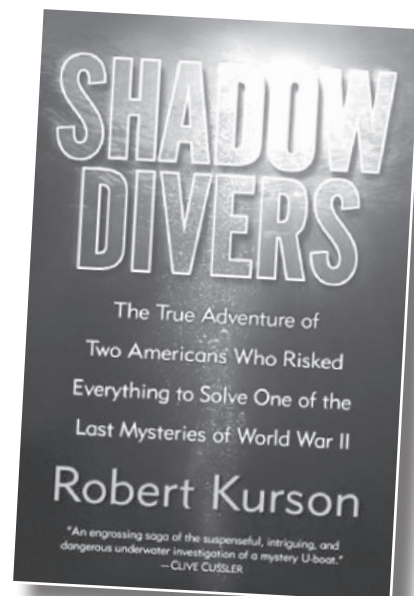
"We really thought it was going to be the next big thing," Karp said. "I edited 'Seabiscuit' as well and I've never seen a book take off like this."

Like "Seabiscuit," the story of a broken-down racehorse with a winning spirit, the "Shadow Divers" expedition took its toll on those involved.

The expedition killed three crew members, sent Nagle into rampant alcoholism and eventually death, and ruined marriages—all chronicled by Kurson through interviews and research.

Beyond the perils that lurk in the black of the ocean, the mind-twisting effects of narcosis among them, past the demons that drive deep-sea divers and the horrors of an armed German sub trolling off New Jersey in wartime, Kurson said he was drawn to the story because of its Regular Joes, men who want to grab a piece of history.

"I don't just want to inspire people to go deep wreck diving," Kurson said. "I hope the book inspires people to push forward in their own passions."



Chatterton, 52, a Vietnam veteran and rebel grandson of a rear admiral, told The Associated Press that deep sea diving is a way of life, not a beach resort folly.

"It's almost rooted in who we are as a species," said Chatterton. He first learned of the wreck after local fishermen reported seeing swarms of marine life around a patch of ocean off New Jersey.

"Exploration is what brought us out of our caves," Chatterton said. "It strikes a primitive chord with us."

Fireworks displays are best enjoyed from safe distance

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: With Independence Day approaching, I'm asking for your help in reminding your millions of readers about the danger of fireworks, especially to the eyes.

Each year during Fourth of July celebrations, thousands of adults and children are seriously injured as a result of fireworks and pyrotechnic devices. Many of the injuries affect eyesight, permanently damaging—and in some cases blinding—the victims. In response, the American Optometric Association (AOA) urges people to refrain from using fireworks and to instead enjoy professional displays.

About two-thirds of fireworks-related injuries are burns. Most of the burns involve the hands, eyes, head and face. Almost half of the victims are under 15 years of age, and 75 percent of them are male. The most frequent cause of fireworks injuries requiring trips to the emergency room is sparklers. (Did you know that sparklers can heat up to 1,800 degrees, enough to melt gold?) A sparkler can also literally poke someone's eye out.

This may come as a surprise, but bystanders are also not safe from injury. Data from the U.S. Eye Injury Registry reveals that half of all fireworks injuries occur to bystanders.

So, on this Fourth of July, members of the AOA urge your readers to protect their eyes by avoiding fireworks and enjoying professional displays from a safe distance.

DR. WESLEY PITTMAN, PRESIDENT, A.O.A.

DEAR DR. PITTMAN: Thank you for the timely reminder. Although many people, young and old, regard fireworks as harmless fun, the facts show otherwise.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, during 2002, an estimated 8,800 people were treated in hospital ERs for injuries associated with fireworks. An estimated 20 percent to 25 percent of fireworks injuries are to the eyes—mostly contusions and lacerations—and most of those are caused by firecrackers, rockets and sparklers.

So, a word to the wise: Have a “blast” on the Fourth of July—but do it in a way that will protect yourselves and your families.

□ □ □ □

DEAR ABBY: I am 17 and currently involved with a guy from school. The guy that I was with for a year and a half (my ex) wants to marry me. I still have feelings for him, but not like I used to.

I like my new boyfriend and don't really want to leave him. When my ex and I broke up, it was only supposed to be “a little time apart.” My ex showed signs that he was moving on, so I did the same. Now that he wants to get back together, I don't know what to do. Should I go back with him and give it a chance or let him down gently?

PULLED IN TWO DIRECTIONS

DEAR PULLED: You are 17 years old and on the brink of a bright and exciting future. Why are you in such a hurry to make a permanent commitment? Since you have already “moved on,” you should continue moving on. When the right man comes along, you won't need to ask anyone what to do—you'll know.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

Kidman: Men aren't beating down the door

LONDON (AP)—Being a single mother makes it difficult to find a mate—even when you're Nicole Kidman.

“I'm hoping to meet someone and be happy with them. But that's not as easy as it sounds. I'm a 37-year-old woman with two children. Men aren't beating a path to my door,” she said in an interview published Wednesday in the latest issue of *Now* magazine.

“I don't want to sound like a woman from a lonely hearts club and I don't want to advertise. The children are my priority. I take them around with me—movies or baseball games or local shows—and that's not so appealing for any new man on the scene, is it?” she said.

The Oscar-winning star of “The Hours” has been single since breaking up with rock star Lenny Kravitz earlier this year.

She denied rumors that she might get back together with

ex-husband Tom Cruise, with whom she split in 2001. The pair share custody of their children, 11-year-old Isabella and 9-year-old Connor.

“That whole part of my life is over and done with. We'll always be in contact because of our children,” she said. “But I'm single and there's no one out there for me at the moment.”

Kidman, who recently starred in a remake of “The Stepford Wives,” also wanted to dash speculation that she's suffering from an eating disorder. She has looked painfully thin in recent photographs, but said her hairstyle was to blame.

“I've been wearing it up a lot lately and that seems to make my face look smaller and make my body look even thinner,” she explained. “When I wear it down ... then my boy-like figure looks a little fuller. That's the only explanation I can come up with.”



Kidman

Eminem's ex-wife sentenced to jail

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. (AP)—Eminem's ex-wife was sentenced Wednesday to at least four months in jail for leaving a court-ordered drug treatment program without permission.

Macomb County Circuit Judge Edward Servitto sentenced Kim Mathers to a year in jail, but she only will have to serve 140 days. Then, she will be released to a drug treatment program in Hazel Park.

If Mathers successfully completes the program, the remainder of her jail time is suspended

and she will be placed back on probation, said Russ Marlan, spokesman for the Michigan Department of Corrections. If she doesn't complete it, she will have to serve an additional one year in jail and then will be placed back on probation, Marlan said.

Mathers twice has dropped out of a court-ordered drug treatment program. She served some jail time earlier this year after dropping out the first time.

Police arrested Mathers in an Ann Arbor hotel room on

June 15 after a caller reported she was staying there. A warrant for Mathers had been issued in April.

Mathers was placed on probation after pleading guilty to charges of possessing 25 grams or less of cocaine and failing to give adequate space to an emergency vehicle. The charges stemmed from a 2003 traffic stop in St. Clair Shores.

Mathers and rapper Eminem, whose legal name is Marshall Bruce Mathers III, have a daughter, Hailie Jade Mathers.

Bowie cancels tour due to shoulder pain

LONDON (AP)—A pain in the shoulder, which stopped David Bowie halfway through his concert in Prague, has now forced the singer to cancel the rest of his European tour, he announced Wednesday.

“Due to the continuing pain and extreme discomfort from a trapped/pinched nerve in his shoulder and to prevent possible further injury, David Bowie has been advised by his doctors to

cancel his performances at the 11 remaining European dates throughout July,” said an announcement on his Web site, www.davidbowie.com.

“Due to the unpredictable nature of the condition and in an effort to give fans as much warning as possible—and indeed, to aid promoters in finding a replacement headliner in time for the festival dates—David very reluctantly agreed to take the advice,”

the announcement said.

Bowie, 57, cut short his June 23 Prague concert because of pain in his shoulder. He took a 10-minute time-out about halfway through the show, but sang only two more songs before returning.

The singer had already canceled two dates in Austria, in Vienna and Salzburg. The latest announcement also included dates in France, Belgium, Ireland, Spain, Switzerland and Scotland.

Lindsay Lohan's father arrested on theft

HUNTINGTON, N.Y. (AP)—Teen movie star Lindsay Lohan's father has been arrested on a charge of theft of services after allegedly skipping out on a \$3,800 bill for several suites at a posh Long Island hotel and catering facility.

Michael Lohan, 42, was arrested Tuesday at Nassau County Court in Mineola, where he was to appear for a conference on unrelated charges, said Suffolk County Police Lt. Kenneth Fasano.

Lohan, whose daughter stars in the film “Mean Girls,” booked suites April 12 and 13 to entertain guests at Oheka Castle at \$700 each per night. Police say the hotel's management made several attempts to collect payment



AP

Actress and nominee Lindsay Lohan arrives at the MTV Movie Awards at Sony Pictures Studio in Culver City, Ca., Saturday, June 5, 2004.

for the rooms without success.

His attorney, Marvin Hirsch, decried the arrest and said Lohan arranged to pay the bill with a credit card, but for unexplained reasons, the charge was not processed. Lohan was released on \$250 bail.

Lohan was arrested shortly before he was to appear before a Nassau County judge to face charges that he struck his brother-in-law at a first communion party at the family's Merrick home on May 23.

He also faces prosecution in Manhattan, where he was arraigned this month on assault and other charges for allegedly swearing at a sanitation worker whose truck was blocking his car, then punching him in the face.

Versace's niece partly inherits company

MILAN, Italy (AP)—Gianni Versace's niece Allegra Beck turned 18 on Wednesday and took possession of the inheritance from her late uncle—half the fashion house.

The 50 percent stake in the company had been held in trust since Versace was gunned down at his Miami Beach mansion in 1997, when Allegra was 11. She is the daughter of Versace's sister Donatella, the company's designer, and former model Paul Beck.

While the fashion house has remained under family control, it is laden with debt. Before his death, Gianni Versace had planned to list the company on the stock market, but that was placed on hold until Allegra's 18th birthday.

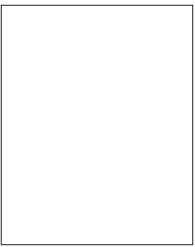
Allegra and her brother Daniel often attended their uncle's fashion shows, and he reportedly willed his art collection, including works by Picasso, to Daniel, Donatella's younger child. But after Gianni Versace's death, the children were kept from the public spotlight.

Though Allegra didn't appear at the Versace menswear collection Sunday night or at the party afterward at the family's palazzo, she was at an early birthday party this month at a Milan nightclub.

Allegra has told friends she wants to study acting in New York. Unlike the children of families such as Missoni, Ferragamo and Biagiotti, she has so far shown no interest in following the family's fashion footsteps.

Interim chief executive Daniele Ballestrazzi was quoted Wednesday in *Finanza & Mercati* as saying Allegra has decided to become “a full-fledged shareholder.”

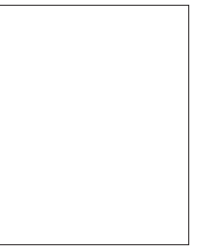
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